

GOOD TELEPHONE TACTICS

Be sure you have the right number—consult the directory.

Speak distinctly—directly into the mouthpiece.

Be brief—clear your line for the next call.

Use off-peak hours for Long Distance Calls.

Manitoba Telephone System

SERVING THE PROVINCE

Save Food!
Save Lives!

Help Feed The Hungry!

This space donated by

THE RIEDLE BREWERY LTD.

WINNIPEG

LIBRARY
BOREAL INSTITUTE

JUL 4 1967

OSLER, HAMMOND & NANTON

WINNIPEG

STOCK DEPARTMENT

Members of

Montreal Stock Exchange Winnipeg Stock Exchange

Montreal Curb Market Calgary Stock Exchange

Private wire connections to all principal markets.



BOND DEPARTMENT

Government, Municipal

and Corporation Securities

Members of the Investment Dealers Association of Canada

OSLER, HAMMOND & NANTON

Limited

WINNIPEG - CALGARY

Sagas of heroic pioneers in Manitoba ... the Icelanders

The Gimli settlement of 1875 was not yet within the province of Manitoba. Accordingly, in 1876, the Icelandic settlers formed their own local government with council and reeve to perform duties pertaining to roads, fishing, sanitation, fire protection and social welfare.

Nearly three quarters of a century later, this young Dominion of Canada still benefits immeasurably from the traditions and principles of a people with over a thousand years of parliamentary experience.

ICELAND IN MANITOBA

The **DREWRY'S** *Limited*

The Icelandic Canadian

Vol. 6

Winnipeg, Man., Spring 1948

No. 3

EDITORIAL

The object of the Icelandic Canadian Club is to do all in its power to assist in the attempt to preserve Icelandic culture here. Placed as we are, it is inevitable that as the years pass more and more people of Icelandic descent will lose the command of the Icelandic language and come to employ English as their medium of expression. To some this spells the doom of Icelandic culture among our people in America. "If", it is said, "the Icelandic language disappears Icelandic culture must also disappear." This, however, is true only in part. The many-sided culture of a people is not wholly dependent on the language. Much can remain generations after a knowledge of the tongue is lost. Examples of this are too numerous to require discussion. On the other hand, it is true that language is such an important element in a culture that it is not to be lightly discarded. To appreciate fully the cultural wealth which the Icelandic nation possesses in such abundance a command of the language is necessary. Cognisant of this the Icelandic Canadian Club makes every effort to keep alive among our people here the consciousness of the value of our heritage, firmly believing that a realization of its value will spur our young folk to acquire the means of fully making this their own. The Icelandic Canadian Club believes too, that only by bringing to our fellow citizens of other races the best in the Icelandic heritage are Icelanders fulfilling their duty as Canadian citizens.

It is always encouraging to any group to know that its objects and efforts meet with approval and support. To be able to report that this is so as far as the efforts of the Icelandic Canadian

Club and kindred bodies are concerned is, therefore a matter of satisfaction. One recent and very important example of such approbation appears in the October-December issue of the **Eimreiðin**, one of the oldest (now in its 54th year) and most respected periodicals published in Iceland. Reprinted there is the speech which Judge W. J. Lindal delivered at the Icelandic celebration in Blaine, Wash., on July 27, 1947. In its introductory remarks to this the **Eimreiðin** states: "This article by a man well acquainted with the subjects is a penetrating analysis of the present state of Icelandic culture in America and of what must be done, on both sides of the ocean, in order to preserve and extend that culture so that it may bear the finest fruit. The article, therefore, has a message for Icelanders on both sides of the Atlantic, and although the author directs his words, first and foremost, to his western countrymen, he also addresses the nation in the homeland and proposes various measures for bringing about increased co-operation between the two groups. Such co-operation the **Eimreiðin** has always been anxious to support and is, thus, pleased to present this article to its readers."

It is unnecessary here to recapitulate the main points of Judge Lindal's speech. Suffice it to say that it was an able exposition of the views that we, of the Icelandic Canadian, hold on this subject, and which have often been expounded in the pages of the Magazine.

In the same issue of the **Eimreiðin** there is a summary of the article "Folk Festivals" which appeared in the Autumn 1947 number of the Icelandic Canadian. This is prefaced by some very laudatory remarks about the work of

the Icelandic Canadian Club in acquainting others with Iceland and its culture and the Club's efforts to preserve that culture in America.

Such remarks as this (made by the premier Icelandic periodical of the present day) on the value of the work which the Icelandic Canadian Club, through its members, strives to perform, cannot fail to convince us that we are working along right lines.

It is also pleasant to be able to report that a project, which the Icelandic Canadian Club has always felt to be of the highest importance, is now progressing excellently. This is the matter of establishing a chair in Icelandic studies at the University of Manitoba. It is now in the hands of a committee of individuals who are energetically pressing it forward to a successful conclusion. The wholehearted support and the handsome contribution which the Icelandic National League gave this venture at

its recent annual convention is also encouraging. The Icelandic Canadian wishes the committee handling this matter every success.

It seems, then, that there is little cause to despair of the future. Icelandic culture, even though the language may be slowly disappearing, is in a flourishing condition. And this is as it should be. Iceland, although one of the smallest nations in the world, possesses one of the richest cultural traditions of any people. This must not be lost. It has made us what we are. It is that which we can hand to our children and to the great nation which is emerging here.

Let us then go forward, heartened by the favourable response which is greeting the efforts of all who are working for the same objects as we, and confident that ours is no vain task but one which holds promise of enduring results.

T. J. O.



ICELAND'S THOUSAND YEARS

The book, *Iceland's Thousand Years* is more and more fulfilling the purpose for which it was prepared.

In her foreword to the book, Mrs. Hólmfriður Danielson, director of the Evening School, where the lectures were first given, says:

"For a long time it has been apparent that an organized effort should be put forth to make their cultural heritage accessible to people of Icelandic descent, in a language that they can all understand. . . . We realize that the lectures would prove to be valuable reading material for the public, as being the only series of this nature available. Furthermore, those who contemplate organizing study groups along similar lines (as the Icel. Can. Evening School) would find them excellent source material".

It is therefore gratifying to note that the study group organized in Riverton is using the book, *Iceland's Thousand*

Years as source material for its first season's work. Twenty-two copies were ordered by the group, so that members could study each lecture before it is discussed at meetings. The leader for each meeting then provides Icelandic material pertaining to each lecture, which is read, followed by general discussions.

Recently fifty copies of the book were ordered by Iceland. A publicity campaign is being prepared in connection with the "Keflavik" Airport in Iceland where a growing stream of tourists is expected. The committee in charge of this work asked for the 50 copies of *Iceland's Thousand Years*, and enquired about how many copies are available.

The book sells for \$1.50 unbound and \$2.50 in handsome cloth binding with gold-leaf lettering. There is a discount of 25% if three or more books are ordered by the same person. Order from: Mrs. H. F. Danielson, 869 Garfield St. Winnipeg, Canada.

The Artist and the Man

By HOLMFRIDUR DANIELSON

"The world is suffering from too much rationalizing and not enough feeling. Let's go back to our Meadow Hill home, throw another log in the box stove, open the front so the shadows will dance on the ceiling, and sing again the old Icelandic folk songs".

cipline, by continual striving toward creative living in its best sense, and by his passion for fulfillment.

In our swift-paced age of materialism it is often difficult for the layman to distinguish between the artist and the mere showman. Indeed, our minds are



The sculptor, with "Sigrun"—an Icelandic type

Thus, Jón Magnús Jónson wrote recently to his sister Sigríður, about that world where he had created so much beauty to be enjoyed and appreciated by those around him and the world at large. And those who knew him best agree that his finest creation was his own life of unassuming nobility, — a life finely moulded by self-dis-

continually clogged with propaganda about so-called art that has been commercialized. We lack access to the best that is produced in the fields of the fine arts, and often the training to appreciate it.

When greed for gold and for fame has debased the best features of our cultural atmosphere we hardly notice it.

We have not the sensitive awareness of a Ruskin, the genius and deep thinker who could not tolerate pretense. In discoursing on artists' motives he once wrote:

"... If it is petty self-complacency in your own skill, trust in precepts and laws, hope for academical or popular approbation, or avarice of wealth, — it is quite possible that by steady industry, or even by fortunate chance, you may win the applause, the position, the fortune that you desire; but one touch of true art you will never lay on canvas or stone as long as you live. But if it is the love of that which your work represents, — if, being a landscape painter, it is the love of hills and trees that moves you — if, being a figure painter it is the love of human beauty and human soul that moves you — if, being a flower or animal painter, it is love, and wonder, and delight in petal and in limb that moves you, then the spirit is upon you, and the earth is yours, and the fulness thereof."

The true artist is a highly sensitized being. He sees clearly, feels keenly, and when in his work he is able to interpret his profound inner emotions to his fellow men in such a way as to make them more spiritually alive, he has succeeded in enlarging their powers of understanding, and therefore their enjoyment. His work is then no longer "art for art's sake", but rather Art, for the joy of humanity. It is a privilege to become acquainted with the creations of such an artist. And sometimes it is a still greater privilege to know the artist himself; to find perhaps that he is not egotistical but modest; not arrog-

ant, but humble; not overbearing, but understanding; and not morose and pessimistic, but charming and full of good humor, yet serious withal, about his work and its ennobling influence.

Such an artist was Jón Magnús Jónson, and such a man! His students at Cranbrook Academy found truly that, "Whatever fire is in our hearts will burn also in our work", and they had this to say about him:

"... he believed that art could be used as an instrument to combat the danger of man becoming enslaved and ultimately destroyed by the machines he created to be his servants, — a danger which he attributed to man's inability to understand and to solve the multitude of complex problems evolved by his creations".

★

Jón M. Jónson was born in a pioneer cabin made of logs and sod, near Upham, North Dakota, December 18, 1893.* He left high school in Fargo to serve with the American Army in the first world war. He became an officer and was put in command of negro troops which he took to France.

After his return he studied at Minneapolis School of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago and at the Beaux Arts in New York. After studying further with several noted sculptors he went to Salt Lake City, Utah, to work on the Soldiers' Memorial erected at the Capitol. In 1927 he received the Tiffany Foundation Fellowship, and then worked for a while in New York. In 1930 he returned to Chicago for a number of important commissions. Among these were: fountains at Frankfort and

* His parents were, Hólmfriður Hansdóttir Hjaltalín from Litla Hrauni in Hnappadalssýsla, and Stefán Jónsson from Bitruhreppi in Strandasýsla, Iceland. Stefán was the son of Jón Magnússon, póstur, whom Mrs. V. J. Eylands wrote about in the Icelandic Canadian, March, 1945 issue. Mrs. Eylands and the sculptor were first cousins. Jon M. Jonson's sisters are: Lara, Mrs. Norman J. Thompson, Long Island; Sigríður, Mrs. O. S. Freeman, Bottineau, N. D., and Miss Anna Johnson, who teaches Art in a high school in New York state, having studied at Cranbrook, and majored in Art at Columbia University, taking her Master's Degree in 1935. There is also one Brother, Sigurður Hjaltalín (Lynn) Johnson, living in Union, N. J. In 1923 the sculptor married Lelu Maish, an artist. They have one son, Edward, now twenty years old. Jon M. Jonson died Jan. 21, 1947, at Bloomfield Hills.

Richmond, Indiana; Sculpture on International House, Chicago; the George Rogers Clark Memorial at Vincennes, Indiana; the carving for the Racine County Court House at Racine, Wisconsin; and many others. He has also worked in California modeling ceramic sculpture.

In addition to the Tiffany Fellowship, he has won other outstanding prizes such as : The Garden Sculpture Prize, 1931; the Hickox Prize, 1935; the Prize for Merit for his marble, 'Mother and Child', (Hoosier, 1936), and the first sculpture prize given by the Indianapolis Art Assn., at the John Herran Art Institute, 1937. In June, 1938, the honor Fraternity of Delta Phi Delta bestowed upon him the greatest honor it confers, when he was made its tenth laureate member.

In the summer of 1944 Jonson came to the Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, as instructor in the department of Sculpture.

★

"A true friendship is as wise as it is tender", wrote H. D. Thoreau. Jon M. Jonson attracted to himself friends who were wise and who were tender. It has been enlightening to read the tributes and the testimony of the fine men who knew Jonson and became his friends. One such was Carl Milles, head of the department of Sculpture at Cranbrook. He writes:

"As a sculptor Jon belonged to no school. He was himself! A dreamer of Nordic blood. We sat often in his orderly well-kept study, looking at his heads, carved in stone or wood, or discussing his compositions, which always had a spark of Icelandic feeling mixed with the classical. His heads depict the noble Icelandic faces of that clean Nordic race, imparting a truthful sincere expression, as Jon was himself. He was a man first of all whose word you could trust . . . a deep personality, a humorist, but a little dry. He could be very silent, but became eloquent when hon-

est anger flamed in him against those who pretend to lead young artists, and lead them the wrong way. . . . His passion was away from the individual, away from the ego, toward a conception of the whole . . . this was the source of his strength. . . ."

"I would have known him anywhere", says another friend, Paul E. Barr, head of the art department of the University of North Dakota, describing their first meeting after they had become somewhat acquainted through letters. Of course Paul Barr would have known Jon. There was at once a natural affinity between those two and, judging by their pictures, they could have been brothers, so remarkably alike do they look in facial features. And certainly the bonds of deep understanding and appreciation which bound those two together were as close as blood-relationship!

In his article about Jon M. Jonson, written in the current issue of the *Palette*, Mr. Barr describes the man and his environment, giving us a living picture. He says:

"His head was leonine, with a mass of dark brown hair, finely proportioned features, and shoulders in accord with his six-foot-two stature. He was a big man physically, with great capacity and power, both mental and physical.

"The Jonson home was a retreat—three miles southeast of Frankfort, at the edge of a grove of woodland, a beautifully situated old Colonial mansion of orange-red brick, with front columns rising two stories high. The rooms were spacious, cool and inviting and the furnishings showed discerning taste. Jon's handiwork was in evidence throughout the house. A carved Welsh cabinet stood high against one wall—designed and executed by Jon himself to accommodate some of the beautiful family treasures. In the kitchen was an old-fashioned food safe that Jon had renovated, replacing the perforated sheets of tin with panels of metal treat-

ed in repousse, depicting the activities of the Jonson family in pursuit of their daily sustenance. Under his manipulation it became an object of art.

"Near the main house, in the corner of the yard, stood a small building which Jon had converted into his studio-workshop. Outside hung some sculptured grotesques of comic and tragic mien. Inside were many of his accumulated finished products of varying sizes, materials and subjects housed in cabinets or placed out of the way along the walls. . . . It was a place for activity and the visitor realized that he was in the presence of creative genius

"The great carving of Lincoln in African walnut dominated the work-



shop. I never tired of seeing it and came to anticipate it upon my visits. The choice of medium, the interpretation and the mastery of execution places this among the choicest of all Lincoln statues. There is a warmth in the wood Jon used that is inherent in the man Lincoln. This was Jonson's ability—al-

ways to select the best medium for his expression. In direct contrast to this statue in wood is his exquisite bust of Mrs. Jonson in pink Georgia marble."

Jonson has worked his sculpture in many mediums: in plaster, marble, wood, stone, terra cotta, black walnut, Mexican granite, and plasticine, always choosing the best one which would adequately lend itself to the interpretation of his subject. The head of 'Sigrun', an Icelandic lady, is done in black walnut, and the finished product seems to glow with a warm serenity and depth of character inherent in our best Icelandic type of features. 'Cargador', a rugged piece of work in Mexican granite was bought by the Cranbrook Academy of Art, for their permanent collection.

★

For Jonson his association with congenial friends was fruitful and satisfying. He was also blessed with a happy home life and kept in close touch with his brother and sisters.

In his letters to his sisters Jonson was prone to reminisce about the old sod home back in Dakota, and the simple pleasures enjoyed in the midst of homely toil. His letters and his sisters' letters would start off with, "Do you remember?" and from there on would weave a delightful tale of past events, of youthful philosophy, or of fanciful imagery, dug from treasured childhood days stored in a nostalgic memory.

"Do you remember, sister Sigga, the Christmas service at the old log community house. . . . I can still see the interior. The decorated Christmas tree at the east end of the platform, around the pot-bellied stove were gathered the more enfeebled, and mothers with infants; farther back were the rosy-cheeked in animated conversation. The east side was reserved for the men folk, who would not be so effeminate as to sit among the women! While in the farthest and coldest corner would sit Valmundur, a puffy pillar of red blood and independence. We boys sat on the

first benches in front of the tree, kicking the benches in our impatience, or pinching, shoving and tittering in sheer exuberance. I have no recollection of what the service consisted of. Perhaps it was led by that snuff-stained troubadour, Thorsteinn, who could handle any situation with equal facility, whether it was leading the singing, making pine coffins for the departed, or uncorking a whiskey bottle. Anyway it was Arni Goodman who was the hero in my eyes, for he it was who lit the Christmas tree. Such a blaze of glory my eyes never had beheld, or never will again! The psalmist might say, "The Heavens declare the Glory of God", but to the little boy it was a lighted Christmas tree that declared the Glory of God.

"I know my presents were not expensive, even more meagre perhaps than those of some of the other boys, but I was not disheartened for I carried away with me something far more precious. I had seen the angels! The service was held late in the afternoon so that just when there was a last glow of light in the west my eyes for some reason, were drawn to one of the west windows. And

then I saw them! Pale indefinite shapes floating before the upper half of the windows. Could it be? Why not! The angels attended the birth of Jesus. Why should they not lend their presence to a celebration of that event! I never shared this experience with anyone, not even my Mother. Was it because it was too precious and personal, or because I was afraid of being laughed at, afraid of being disillusioned?

"I learnt later in high school when I studied science, that smoke has a way of descending when barometric pressure is low, (or is it high?). What does it matter! As Mark Twain said: 'Don't give up your illusions. Without them you may exist, but you will cease to live'. Science asks all questions but can answer only a few. It can fill the stomach but not satisfy the human heart. The world is suffering from too much rationalizing and not enough feeling. Let's go back to our Meadow Hill home, throw another log in the box stove, open the front so the shadows will dance on the ceiling and sing again the old Icelandic songs."



Young people in Iceland, most of them age 16 to 25, desire to correspond with young people on this continent. More than half know English as well as Icelandic. Those interested are requested to write, indicating their inter-

ests in order that a congenial correspondent may be selected. Address letters to: Mr. Jón Agnars, Manager. "Hekla" International Correspondence Club, P.O. Box 965, Reykjavik, Iceland.

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

EDITORIAL BOARD: Holmfridur Danielson, Chairman, 869 Garfield St., Winnipeg, Man.; Judge W. J. Lindal, 788 Wolseley Ave.; Prof. T. J. Oleson, 484 Montague Ave.; Heimir Thorgrimson, 627 Agnes St.; Axel Vopnfjord, 1267 Dominion St.

NEWS EDITORS: Stefania Eydal, 745 Alverstone St.; Caroline Gunnarson, 213 Kennedy St.

OUR WAR EFFORT: Mattie Halldorson, 213 Ruby St.

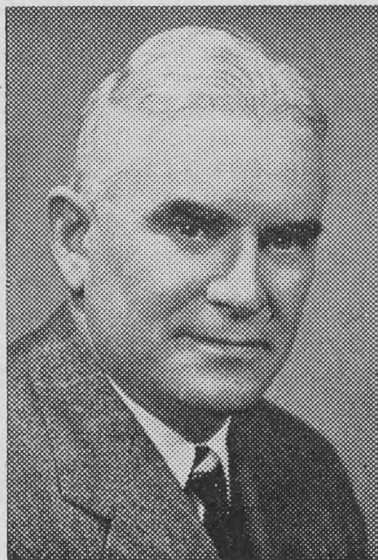
BUSINESS MANAGER: Grace Thorsteinson, Ste. E, Eggertson Apts.

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Hjalmur F. Danielson, 869 Garfield St.

Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa.

Boss Johnson, Premier of B. C.

On his fifty-seventh birthday, Byron Ingemar Johnson experienced his greatest triumph. It had just been announced at the Liberal Nominating Convention that he had won the party



Byron Ingemar Johnson

leadership over his opponent, Attorney-General Gordon S. Wismer, by the slim margin of six votes. Newspaper items dated Dec. 10, 1947, reported:

"The delegates were on their feet, shouting. The victor's face was flushed, setting off his grey hair and dark eyebrows. Obviously, he was under great emotional strain, as he passed a corner that leads to the stage in the Vancouver Hotel's big ballroom. A radio man thrust a microphone into his face, asking him to say a few words. Gently placing his hand over the mike he said, 'Not now, please'."

Realizing his first duty lay in speaking to his friends and supporters, speech

came to him with difficulty. As the overwhelming acclaim faded away, he said:

"It is hard to find the words. I'm sure you will appreciate how I feel. My good friend, Gordon. Thanks for the fine way you carried on the campaign."

The scene had all the earmarks of a closely contested lacrosse game, the milling crowds, laughter and cheers, the evenly matched sides, the tense moments of doubt, the final result and then the sporting handshake between victor and vanquished. High tension existed because it was a foregone conclusion that the victor would replace Premier Hart upon his approaching resignation.

Consequently, on Dec. 29, 1947, John Hart handed over the reins of government to Byron Johnson and nine cabinet ministers. As they took the oaths of office, the newly chosen premier made his first public statement declaring he was fully conscious of the responsibilities involved, and deep in appreciation of the honor conferred:

"No effort will be spared to carry on the affairs of the people with the same determination and high integrity of purpose that has been the case under the leadership of my predecessor. I trust that the new year will bring a solution of trying problems".

On March 2, 1948, when the B.C. legislature convenes under the coalition of Liberal-Progressive-Conservative parties it will be known as the Johnson-Anscomb government, for the Hon. Herbert Anscomb has announced his party's willingness to co-operate in making this administration possible.

When Byron Johnson presides over cabinet meetings in the executive coun-

cil chambers or occupies his new office in the north west corner in the parliament buildings, he will exemplify his own remark made on March 6, 1947, when he jumped to his feet during a session on the budget debate, and said:

"B.C. has done well by anyone who has stayed in B.C. I say that the capitalistic system has given B.C. one of the finest standards of living anywhere in the world. If a man wants to work in B.C. there's a place for him".

This spirited member for New Westminster was stung into the above remarks by a reference made of veterans selling Christmas trees on street corners. He continued by making comparisons and quoting statistics. The press reported:

"Byron I. (Boss) Johnson provided a polished and capable defence of B.C. and its present form of Gov't. Turning his full oratorical force into a masterpiece of justification, at an opportune time, he made a bright spot in the day's proceedings."

The name Byron is the anglicized form of his original name of Bjorn, for he is of Icelandic parentage. Born in Victoria, B.C., he received his education in the schools of that city. As a boy he became a famous figure on the lacrosse field, and his mother's affectionate name of "Bjössi" soon was changed to "Boss". From 1906 to 1912, he starred in an inter-city league, turning professional to play with the Con Jones Vancouver Lacrosse Club in 1913.

With the outbreak of World War I he served overseas with the 11th Division, Field Ambulance, Motor Transport, transferring to the Royal Air Force in 1918.

Back in Canada, in partnership with his brother, John V., he established a firm dealing in builders' supplies, rock quarries, sand and gravel pits. This hard driving athlete showed a willing-

ness to work and, by capable management, the business prospered and their fleet of trucks grew in numbers. In 1930 the brothers sold their rapidly developing business to Evans Coleman and Gilley Bros. Byron Johnson remained with the company as Operations Manager in Victoria, but with the expansion of the firm's interests he moved to New Westminster, accompanied by his charming wife and small son. Eventually, he rose through the ranks to the top, being appointed President and General Manager of all subsidiaries and affiliated companies of Evans Coleman and Gilley Bros., in March, 1946.

It was in 1935 that he was first elected to represent Victoria in the provincial legislature. He made his maiden speech in Feb. 1936, mainly about semi-free-trade. Press notices of March 6, say:

"Byron Johnson, the great 'Boss' Johnson of the lacrosse field is obviously one of the most promising young men heaved up by the last election. His speech on Thursday only served to deepen one's regret that it is likely to be the last election which he will contest. Business eagerly appropriates and rapidly advances such young men who could do much in government.

Trade is Mr. Johnson's economic religion"

It was freely predicted that he would soon be in the cabinet, but such are the vagaries of a public election. In the 1937 elections, he lost out by a very small margin and so turned his attention to business. In New Westminster, he quickly became a popular business man, showing that the Royal City had forgiven him for bringing defeat so often to their own Salmonbellies' Team.

The death of Wells Grey, representative of that city necessitated a by-election in April 1945. Byron Johnson won over Mayor Mott, the honor of carrying the Liberal standard into the fray.

The campaign was conducted vigorously by all sides. An editorial of May 1, says:

"... the Hart-Maitland coalition gov't deserves strong support... for the administration is sharply superior to any predecessor.... The fusion in provincial affairs expelled any political party motives and centered government efforts to public interests.... 'Boss' Johnson has superior qualifications as a candidate.... He was selected by the former Air Minister, Mr. Powers, as his representative in building R.C.A.F. establishments in the west, a post that pleased a man who was himself with the R.A.F. in the latter days of the First Great War. His work for Mr. Power by the way, earned for him the O.B.E."

It was the first opportunity for electors to express approval of the existing coalition government so when Byron Johnson's support showed more votes than all other three candidates combined, Premier Hart was jubilant, saying that the verdict 'registered in unmistakable terms the endorsement of the policies of the Government'.

Byron Johnson held the seat again through the general election of Oct. 1945, serving with distinction, and leading to that memorable day in December, 1947 where:

"Amid the magnificent splendor of the main drawing room of Government House with streamers of sunlight patterning the floor, Byron Johnson, with a steady voice promised allegiance to His Majesty, King George VI; to guard the secrets of the executive council; and to uphold the dignity of his office."

The newly elected premier loses no time. His first official business took him on a flying trip to Ottawa to interview Premier King and nine cabinet ministers. There he was awaited with 'anticipatory admiration and interest'.

His mission to the East concerned Dominion-Provincial relations, and several social security problems, such as the growing cost of the Old Age Pensions the proposed health measures, and the need for increased hospital facilities to implement any forward move in social progress.

His trip was considered a great personal success for his engaging smile disarms friend or political opponent alike. That he may contribute greatly to the good in our Canadian way of life is freely predicted, for he is acquiring national stature in his fight for Social Reform. He has much perseverance, being termed a 'whale of a fighter', and he pursues his crusades with fearless optimism.

To those of us in Canada whose ancestry stems from that little island where history is steeped in the art of law-making and where the plains of Thingvellir witnessed the interpretation of justice, the career of one of its sons must continue to hold interest. It will be with sympathetic understanding that we follow him in his task of guiding the ship of state through the complexities of uncharted seas toward an honored goal.

Lillian T. Sumarlidason

ED. NOTE: The above article was written before the provincial by-elections in British Columbia which were held on February 23 last. Readers will be glad to hear that in his first test of strength since Byron Johnson became premier he was successful in both contests. In Sannich constituency his candidate received a majority of about 1,500 over his nearest opponent and in the small constituency of Cariboo his candidate defeated his opponent by about 300 votes.

In the discharge of the responsibilities of his high office, Mr. Johnson will be doing more than serving his own country. He will be doing his full share in preserving and making known the

rich heritage which has been handed to us of Icelandic extraction in this land. Our achievements as Canadians; the quality of our work, be it lofty or humble, that of the cultural leader, the business executive or the manual labourer; our contribution to the creating of a vibrating esprit-de-corps among freedom loving peoples; these are the criteria, by which our descendants and other people will assess and evaluate that cultural heritage. Our greatest individual service in the preservation of

our heritage is to acquit ourselves in our chosen callings that people will want to acquaint themselves with the language and literature, the customs and attitude of mind which are the indicia of what we feel has been handed to us and which we want to preserve in ourselves, pass on to our children and add to the cultural wealth of our country.

Byron Johnson is in the front rank among those who are rendering such service. — W. J. L.

★

Receives Jaycee Award



A descendant of Icelandic pioneers in Utah, **Byron T. Geslison**, prominent young civic leader, has won the Spanish Fork Junior Chamber of Commerce distinguished service award.

Presentation of the gold key to the Jaycees' "outstanding young man of the year" was made by Patriarch Henry A. Gardner at the annual Jaycee award banquet, attended by a large crowd of Jaycees, wives and special guests.

Rating highest on a point system used in judging, Mr. Geslison received the award for meritorious service in his community during 1947. He is now beginning a fourth term as Spanish Fork City Treasurer, serves as bishop of the Spanish Fork Fifth Ward, and acts on the Palmyra Stake Bishops' Welfare council.

Citizens of Spanish Fork in the past two municipal elections have voiced confidence in Mr. Geslison's capability in civic affairs by nominating him for city treasurer on both tickets. He was first counselor in the Fifth ward bishopric over three years before becoming a bishop, and he also filled a LDS mission in Germany and Austria.

After completing this mission for his church in Europe, Byron Geslison spent the better part of the summer visiting in Iceland. During the past summer several of his relatives from Iceland visited with him in Spanish Fork.

A son of Mr. and Mrs. Mundi Geslison, he was born May 15, 1914 in Spanish Fork. He graduated from Brigham Young university in June, 1939, and since that time has completed one year of post graduate work. Mr. Geslison's wife is the former Melva Holt of Salt Lake City. They have two children.

Shoal Lake Sketches

PART II.

By W. KRISTJANSON

POLITICS

In the early days men took their politics strong, like Hoffman's Drops or Hudson's Bay Rum. Then there were only two parties, and, to use the words of Gilbert and Sullivan:

"Every boy and every girl
Born into the world alive
Is either a little Liberal
Or else a little Conservative".

The Icelandic settlers, took to politics like ducks to water. The two Icelandic weeklies in Winnipeg, "Heimskringla", Conservative, and "Lögborg", Liberal, served up the party brew. An illustration of their totally different viewpoint is their account of a certain meeting. One paper stated that it was well attended, the room being half-filled; the other, that it was poorly attended, the room half-empty.

In Shoal Lake, as elsewhere, the lines were clearly drawn, and often the campaign heat temporarily affected personal relationships. It was during one of these early campaigns that Guttormur J. Guttormsson said:

"Nú logar glatt við pólitiska pottinn
Pétur fer að hlýna, það veit Drottinn."

Freely translated:

Now burns the fire brightly
Under the political pot,
Peter begins to feel the heat
— God wot.

Of the three early postmasters, Bjorn Lindal, of Markland, and Arni Freeman, of Vestfold, were Liberal stalwarts, while Magnus Kristjanson, of Otto, was strong in the Conservative

faith. The Liberals were in the majority in the district.

The provincial constituency of Dauphin, created in 1892, comprised "all the territory in the Province north of the North boundary of Township eighteen not included in any other Electoral Division described in this Act, Township eighteen in Ranges three, four and five West, and the West half of Township eighteen in Range two west and the whole of Lake Manitoba and the islands therein". (Statutes of Manitoba, 55 Vic. c. 13, S. 40, 1892).

The Shoal Lake settlement was included in this vast, sprawling, and sparsely inhabited territory. What personal knowledge the voters had of the candidates in the 1896 election, T. A. Burrows and Glen Campbell, may be left to the imagination. In 1899, the settlement was included in the new constituency of Gimli, and for over a decade the voters had their choice between Sigtryggur Jonasson and Baldwin Baldwinson, both well-known for their colonization and journalistic, as well as their political work. In 1914, the constituency of St. George was formed, and thereafter, with the exception of E. L. Taylor, 1913-14, the candidates were from nearer home. In 1915, Skuli Sigfusson, a Lunda pioneer of 1887, was elected.

Sigfusson was Liberal, but in 1920 there was a break with the traditional parties, and Rev. A. E. Kristjansson, a local Unitarian minister whose pronounced humanitarian views drew him to the Labor group in the Legislature, was elected. In 1922, Sigfusson returned the constituency to the Liberal fold, and retained it against Paul Reykdal, Conservative, in 1927. Then followed the years of the depression, and another

break. The humanitarian ideals of the Social Credit party appealed to many, all of whom did not claim to understand the "A + B" theorem or the proposed administrative machinery, and at the 1936 elections Miss Salome Hall-dorson, the Social Credit candidate, carried the constituency. In 1941, Sigfusson resumed his now familiar seat in the House. In 1945, Christian Halldorson, Liberal-Coalitionist, successfully carried the party standard.

In federal politics, in recent years, the C.C.F. party has had strong support. All these tendencies have been reflected to a greater or smaller extent in the Icelandic settlement of Shoal Lake, but, by and large, regardless of party affiliations, the people have been progressive in their political outlook.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

The rural municipality of Posen was created by an Act of the Legislature, passed in 1886. It comprised Townships eighteen to twenty-one, in Ranges one to seven, West, and thus included North Shoal Lake territory.

The population of this municipality was very scattered and the duties of the council were limited. There was aid to persons in distress. Also, at that time, power was vested in municipal councils to form school districts and it is noted that Posen municipal by-law number 89, effective March 19, 1894, formally established the school-district of Vestfold. This municipality was included in the municipality of St. Laurent, 1890-92, and lapsed soon thereafter.

A new municipality, named Coldwell, was created March 24, 1911. Chief promoters were Paul Reykdal and G. K. Breckman, of Lundar; and Richard and Henry Seaman, and Joseph Burge, of Seamo. Icelandic and English settlers now found themselves working together, and there was always close harmony between the two elements.

In 1913, the first year of operation, the council ordered forty hand scrapers, eight wheel scrapers, twelve ploughs,

and 320 culverts. Plans were made for extensive road improvements under the Good Roads Act, and much needed work was commenced on trails that had served for upwards of twenty-five years.

The beginning is usually the hardest. A 1914 entry in the municipal minute book will strike a responsive chord in the hearts of those who travelled over the incipient roads in question: "Much work was done on the roads, more than was apparent". The district was not rich, and there were constant financial difficulties. Unpaid taxes were transferred from the 1913 to the 1914 collectors' roll as follows:

Ward 1	\$ 1,743.38
" 2	779.77
" 3	2,625.90
" 4	4,885.97
	<hr/>
	\$10,035.02

Ten years later, during the months of September to December, 1923, the sum of \$11,212.41 was paid out for road work. By degrees a network of roads was built up, and marketing conditions improved.

Several Shoal Lake men have served on the council. Arni Freeman was member of the first council elected. Kari Byron, who grew to manhood in Shoal Lake, has been reeve since 1930, a record which speaks for itself. Also, Agust Magnusson served with distinction as municipal clerk for twenty-five years. A motion by G. K. Breckman and J. H. Popplewell, at a council meeting December 19, 1913, shows that he set his high standard of work early.

"That the council recognize with pleasure the painstaking care with which Mr. A. Magnusson has discharged his arduous duties of office as Secretary-Treasurer of the municipality for the current year . . . the first year of operation . . ."

Municipal service is not service with gold braid and banquet, but it is demo-

cracy at the grass-roots, and deserves recognition as such. In this particular instance, too, it is interesting to note that here descendants of the Anglo-Saxon franklins who attended hundred moot, and the descendants of the Icelandic *bændur* who rode to Althing have joined hands to make Canadian democracy a success.

HEALTH

The pioneers worked long hours and not always under salutary conditions, exposed as they were to the inclemencies of the weather and with feet wet from wading in the numerous sloughs. The early log houses were too often cold and the straw-thatched roofs not rainproof. Perhaps partly because of this, a number of the early settlers suffered from rheumatism, a condition which seemed to act as a perfect barometer. A not infrequent question was, "How is your rheumatism today?"; a not infrequent remark: "There is going to be a change in the weather. My rheumatism is worse today."

For many years there was no doctor in the district. Mrs. Margret Sigurðson assisted at the first two births there, and many other births. Presently Mrs. Thuriður Thorsteinson became the district midwife, and many a Shoal Lake person she assisted at the start of this world's career.

In the New Iceland group of 1902 there were two homeopathic doctors, Johann Straumfjord and Petur Bjarnason. Both were men of parts, mentally alert, jovial, and interesting personalities. No doubt, this was an important factor in their work of healing, in addition to their vials, with their pink or water-colored contents, and their assortment of pills and powders.

Then there were the home remedies, the cure-all Painkiller and the fiery Hoffman's Drops, the penetrating skunk-oil and the healing yarrow. Unknowingly, vitamins were taken in large doses in certain Icelandic dishes, the liver and the blood-sausage.

Dental decay, something the older generation had rarely known, plagued many of the children. There was not much to do about it, except to apply Painkiller to alleviate the suffering, or to extract with the rough means at hand.

Tuberculosis struck down a number of victims in the earlier years, mostly young people, on the threshold of life, reaching their hands out for what life had to offer.

As Lundar grew, that district acquired a resident doctor. Dr. Magnus Hjaltason, who had come to Oak Point in 1908, now moved to the new centre, and was within easier reach from Shoal Lake. In 1913, he was appointed municipal health officer, at an annual fee of one hundred dollars. Drs. Magnus Hjaltason, Agust Blondal, Sigurður Julius Johannesson, Númi Hjalmarson and Guðmundur Paulson have served heroically in a far-flung and most difficult territory.

It is not the intention to paint too grim a picture. The great majority of people had no need for a doctor from one year's end to the other. Despite, or perhaps because of their hardships, the pioneers were generally noted for their vitality, cheerfulness, and, in many instances, a rich sense of humor. Many lived to a ripe old age, far exceeding the traditional three score years and ten.

CONVERSATION

Visiting was a feature of the weekly round, especially at a centre such as the post office. People, regardless of the purpose of the visit, usually stayed for a sociable chat and a cup of coffee. In the evening, there was sometimes a game of cards, Icelandic whist or Pedro. The conversation might turn to topics of current interest, in politics, religion, literature, local and world news: to the tariff, Bob Rogers, Borden and Laurier; the interpretation of the Bible; a recent poem by Stephan G. Stephansson or Guttormur J. Guttormsson, or a new

book from Iceland by Jón Trausti, or the serial stories in "Löggberg" and "Heimskringla"; the Russo-Japanese war or the war in Tripoli; Halley's Comet; the latest table-rapping spiritualist session; Mrs. Pankhurst and Mrs. Benedictson; the lady in hobble skirts who tripped on the staircase landing. Often, the conversation turned to events and persons associated with the first years in the country: the first employment on a railroad, or on a Canadian farm, the short stay in Siberia, wagon trips to Winnipeg, and the North-West Rebellion.

The Hordals could, from personal experience, make vivid the terrible small-pox winter at Gimli, 1876-77, and they and some others had stories to tell of their years in North Dakota, including interesting accounts of the young lad, Vilhjálmur Stefansson. Some had seen John Hordal, in one of the grueling twenty-four hour "go as you please", walk-or-run, competitions in Victoria Park, 1888, seen him stagger in at the finish, a lad of seventeen triumphing over veterans. Ástráður Johnson, of Lundar, and Jón Bildfell, the Markland school teacher, had gone to the Klondyke, two of a company of over twenty Icelanders, many of them personally known to Shoal Lake people. All these were remembered.

Often, the talk turned to the sagas: to the wise and law-versed Njáll, the sardonic Skarphéðinn, the courtly and high-minded Olafur Pá, and his romantic son, Kjartan, the valiant Gunnar from Hlíðarendi, and the ill-fated Grettir. All these personages became very real to the children who listened to the conversation, and who were also able to read the sagas for themselves. Then there were anecdotes of modern personages in Iceland, such as Simon the Dales-poet, and Bólu-Hjálmar, with verses freely quoted. Mrs. Elin Eiríksson spoke many a time with fond pride of how she used to romp with a young lad, Einar Jónsson, now become a famous sculptor in Iceland. Life in

Iceland figured in the conversation, watching the sheep, the fall round-up, gathering mountain herbs, dashing along on gallant Iceland ponies, fighting for life when storm-bound in the mountains, or tempest-tossed at sea in open fishing boats.

Iceland figured in the conversation. Iceland with its dales and mountains; smooth green homefields and barren, rocky uplands; noble but often treacherous rivers, and beautiful waterfalls: Iceland, with its meagre bounty on land and hard-won harvest of the sea, land of ice and fire, and land of arresting beauty which made the western prairie seem humdrum to the newcomers. This was fascinating to listen to. Life in Shoal Lake was more than one dimensional, comprehending as it did the Icelandic and the Canadian, the ancient and the modern, the natural and the supernatural.

FLOWERS OF THE MIND

The land in Shoal Lake has produced little wealth, but on its stony soil there grow beautiful flowers, the half-hidden violet, the proud tiger lily, the bright-eyed daisy, and the delicate and fragrant wild rose. Likewise, in Shoal Lake, there have grown flowers of the mind, in the form of intellectual, literary, and artistic activities.

Helgi Sveinsson designed a plough, for which the Oliver Plow Company had agreed to pay fifty thousand dollars, in 1914 when war broke out and the project was abandoned. Steinþór Vigfússon also designed an improved plough, and a snowmobile.

In the field of literature, Guttormur J. Guttormsson, poet laureate among the Icelandic people on the American continent since the passing of Stephan G. Stephansson, published his first volume, "Jón Austfirðingur", when farming in Shoal Lake. Jón Runólfsson, some-time teacher at Markland school, was a finely sensitive lyric poet who, in

(Continued on page 49)

Awakening

By HELEN SWINBURNE



The prairie, drowsily,
Is baring its brown shoulders to the sun;
And into tattered rags the wind is rending
Its snow-wreathed covering:
The sun's great kiln hardens and seams and cracks
Its massive hide
Till rain, with gently kneading fingers, smooths
Its furrowed weathering.
The huddled willows wait expectantly
Bending in supplication
Or holding up their arms in wild beseechment
To the unknown above . . . 'tis then I hear
Faint voices whispering persistently;
The silver fluting of far-distant pipes;
The tap reiterant of dancing feet;
All sounds reborn that seem to rise from nothingness
And tug at my heart strings.
My soul is quickening in glad response
Knowing that spring again will set alight
Her buds on leafy trees;
And tiptoe gaily through the waxen grass
Bestrewing it with beauty and romance;
That woods with tangled melody will ring,
And breezes creep in winding labyrinths
Through virgin haunts.
Then shall I sense again the inward theme
Of life rejuvenated and continuant,
When all this wizardry that foils the wise
Awakens to the clarion call of spring.

ED. NOTE: This poem received honorable mention from the Edmonton branch of the Canadian Authors' Association in their 1947 poetry contest.

Solskin

On the Pacific Coast, in Vancouver, the winter season is characterized by cloudy weather with intermittent rain. Sometimes, an occasional fog-bank rolls in from the sea. Then, the resulting dampness makes all the world seem drab and drear.

But at the most unpredictable times, the sun breaks through the clouds bringing its comfortable warmth and cheerful radiance. Quickly disappear all memories of the dreary winter's chill, as the creatures of the earth gain renewed strength from the welcome solar rays.

It is understandable, then, why a few Vancouver women chose the name of "Sólskin" as their banner when uniting into a group to bring cheer and comfort to others in time of trouble or need.

It all began in those far-off days, thirty years ago, in November, 1917. Then the clouds of war seemed to be growing steadily darker, accompanied by depressing casualty lists.

Motivated by the desire to send parcels to their boys overseas, or otherwise to help, these women pooled their energies, under the leadership of Mrs. Valgerður Josephson, now deceased, and with Mrs. H. J. (Emily) Thorson as secretary-treasurer.

The next year, the decision to organize under a constitution, and with a full executive was made, with the following slate of officers: Pres., Mrs. Matthildur Sveinsson; Vice-Pres., Mrs. Ena Jackson; Sec.-Treas., Mrs. Emily Thorson; Ass't Sec'y., Mrs. Anna Harvey.

Though busy as homemakers, they,



LADIES' AID "SÓLSKIN", VANCOUVER, B. C.

Front row, left to right: Mrs. H. Davis (Ass't Sec'y), Mrs. Matthildur Frederickson (Sec'y), Mrs. Archie Orr (Pres.), Mrs. H. S. LeMessurier (Vice-Pres.), Mrs. H. J. (Emily) Thorson (Treas.).

Second row, l. to. r.: Mrs. G. Grimson, Mrs. G. Anderson, Mrs. M. MacNey, Mrs. Stefan Arnason, Mrs. H. Fridleifson, Mrs. B. Bjarnason, Mrs. J. B. Smith, Mrs. Anna Harvey, Mrs. Hannah Pearson.

Third row: l. to r.: Mrs. B. Helgason, Mrs. Wm. Mooney, Mrs. G. F. Sanders, Mrs. Wm. Anderson, Miss Mary K. Anderson, Mrs. G. Johnson, Mrs. A. E. Erickson, Mrs. J. Axdal, Mrs. W. Bell.

nevertheless took time from their personal interests to stage tombolas, sales-of-work, whist drives, concerts, dances and Icelandic dinners.

As "Sólskin" became more fully established the dream or idea of a community hall for all Icelandic folk of the city was undertaken. At one time a substantial sum was accumulated as a Building Fund, but, came the depression. Widow's pensions were inadequate, or mother's allowances seemed insufficient or non-existent. To aid these sorely distressed homes, the Building Fund went into the building of hope and courage instead. With well directed kindness, the women of Sólskin undertook the welfare work during difficult years.

As a nucleus of the Icelandic population, Sólskin sponsored original plays in their native tongue, Christmas concerts for the children and summer picnics.

Monies raised have sent parcels to soldiers in both World Wars, while donations have been made to Red Cross, Betel, Bundles for Britain, Russian Relief, Jón Sigurdson I.O.D.E., and many other charitable causes.

There are many who think of Sólskin with gratitude, and none will deny that the three-fold aim has been amply fulfilled, namely, to send cheer, to the soldiers on active service; to foster social and cultural life among Icelandic people; and to assist financially any friends in times of need.

During the past two years the idea of a home for our senior citizens of Icelandic background has received outstanding support from Sólskin. In all they have contributed the praiseworthy sum of \$1,750.00. Now that the home is a reality, the business of "mothering" it is an added incentive to spur the club

forward. The first christmas party, given in honor of the house guests, in the spacious rooms of this happy home testified to the usual quiet efficiency and thoroughness of their organization.

The thirtieth birthday of Sólskin, in November, 1947, was a special milestone to be observed. At the anniversary dinner, presided over by Mrs. Archie Orr, it was proudly announced that six charter members were still active in the club, viz: Mrs. Thorbjorg Anderson, Mrs. Anna Harvey, Mrs. Gudrun Grimson, Mrs. Hannah Pearson, Mrs. G. F. Sanders, Mrs. H. J. (Emily) Thorson, and Mrs. P. Gudjohnsen. Others with more than twenty years membership are Miss Mary K. Anderson, Mrs. Alice LeMessurier, Mrs. R. McNey, Mrs. J. Erlendson, Mrs. A. T. Anderson, Mrs. Halldor Fridleifson and Mrs. Alla Reilly Jones. It is also noteworthy that Mrs. Thorson has acted as Treasurer for almost the entire existence of the club. When the anniversary picture was taken, these members were unable to be present: Mrs. Eric Hall, Mrs. Helgason, Mrs. A. T. Anderson, Mrs. Alla R. Jones and Mrs. Leo Sigurdson.

The meetings are conducted in the Icelandic language, and take place in their respective homes, where members partake of the proverbial Icelandic hospitality. This has cemented friendships, and the harmonious co-operation has served to endear Sólskin in the hearts of its members.

Because Sólskin is the oldest Icelandic organization in the city of Vancouver, and because of its splendid record of service, many congratulations are in order, with the added wish that this organization may reap a harvest of contentment from the sunshine it has so generously radiated to others.

Lillian T. Sumarlidason

Orchids from Sweden

To Winnipeg's Icelandic Falcons, World Hockey Champions 1920

By SVANHVIT JOSIE

It is nearly thirty years since the Icelandic hockey team from Winnipeg won the world championship. The boys who were on the team have proved that they are outstanding men, not only in sport, but in a great variety of fields in which they have found their life work. But their special contribution to sport has never been forgotten. The Winnipeg Icelanders naturally remember their success with pride. In sports circles generally, the Falcons are mentioned whenever championship hockey is discussed. When plans were being made recently for entry of a Canadian team in the Olympics, papers in different parts of Canada suggested a member of that team as coach. The most recent tribute to this favourite hockey team of the Winnipeg Icelanders comes from Oscar Soderlund, sports editor of Stockholms-Tidningen, Stockholm.

In a letter to Dan Parker, sports writer for the Montreal Gazette, Soderlund states that ice hockey was first introduced in Sweden by an American-Canadian business man and versatile sportsman named Raoul Lemat who settled in Sweden in 1919. When ice hockey was put on the program of the Olympic Games at Antwerp in 1920, Lemat suggested that Sweden should enter a team. Although the Swedes had "not the slightest idea about ice hockey" they did play a fast winter game on skates called Bandy, and Lemat persuaded them that their proficiency at this

game could be adapted to ice hockey. They decided to enter the competition.

The Swedish team did exceedingly well. It was the only European team to score against the overseas teams, and Soderlund states that it was just beaten for the third prize, 1-0, by an excessively defensive Czech team. The following year Sweden won the European championship for the first time.

Much of the credit for this is given to the Winnipeg Falcons. Writing about the part they played in the development of hockey in Sweden, Soderlund says:

"There is another interesting angle concerning the ice hockey at Antwerp in 1920. Canada was represented by a team from the Falcon Club of Winnipeg. Practically all the players on this team hailed from Iceland¹ (of which country the falcon is the symbol). As you know there is no ice in Iceland, so they had learned to play ice hockey after they immigrated to Canada. They had old Scandinavian names like Frederickson, Johannesson, (sic) Sigurjohnson, (sic) etc., and they all spoke an ancient northern dialect² which was spoken on the Scandinavian peninsula during the time of the Vikings. So our boys could get along very well with them and got a lot of useful hints from them on how to play ice hockey. And that's probably why Swedes improved so fast that they won the European championships the following year."

EDITOR'S NOTES:

1. The Icelandic members of the Falcon hockey team, Olympic Champions in 1920, were all born in Manitoba. Their names are: Wally Byron (goal), Konnie Johannesson, Bobby Benson, Frank Frederickson (captain), Mike Goodman, Halldor ('Slim') Halldorson and Chris Fridfinnson. "Huck" Woodman, the 8th member of the team, and Fred ('Steamer') Maxwell, the manager, were not of Icelandic descent. Herbert Axford, who was the president of the Falcon Club, was also of Icelandic parentage.

2. Soderlund is here referring to the Old Norse language (Icelandic), which remained almost unchanged in Iceland, but became subject to great changes in the Scandinavian countries.

Miss Inga Johnson

A normal life on this earth has a purpose and that purpose is achievement, in some form, that corresponds perfectly to the fruit of a plant. Normally, also people find it necessary to learn a great many things and learn them well in order to achieve the de-



Inga Johnson

sired end. Again we find that if the accomplishment has been the result of a good purpose, there is something in that life for others to learn. So it is true that human beings live to learn and to teach.

Miss Inga Johnson's life is such a true picture of a high and noble ideal, and purity of purpose, expressed in useful accomplishment, that it is an inspiration and a challenge to others.

In taking a brief glance at her career, I see her in different spheres and surroundings. The first one is her home in early youth. She was born at Gimli, Man., Oct. 17th, 1880. Her parents

were Jón Sigurjónsson Johnson and Sigurlaug Gísladóttir. After a while, the family moved to Selkirk, and in 1887, to Winnipeg. There Inga grew up to womanhood, attending school as long as means permitted and making good use of Sunday school and church in the First Lutheran. She was a loving child and loved. Then followed a course at a business school and work in a store for 2 or 3 years. So, the happy, bright, fun-loving days of imaginative childhood merged into the period of work.

Next we find her training for nurse in the General Hospital, in Winnipeg. Graduating from there in 1907, she immediately joined the staff of the hospital, where she was so successful that before very long she was appointed assistant superintendent. Some years later, her qualities were recognized as fitting her specially for a relatively new department there, that of social service, and she was placed in charge of that work.

During World War I, after nine years of outstanding work in the General Hospital, Miss Johnson heard the call of duty to a new field of service. She joined the staff of overseas nurses in 1916. Her first work in that capacity was at the Canadian hospital No. 1, in France. Then she was placed in charge of Clearing Station No. 4, of the Canadian Army, and remained there until April 7th, 1919, when she was relieved of overseas duty.

In recognition of her splendid overseas service, she was awarded a medal by the King of Belgium, and the Royal Red Cross Medal, which is the highest distinction given to nurses by the military authorities of Great Britain. The investiture took place in Buckingham Palace, London.

Nothing but honest merit won these marks of distinction. Her unflinching courage, her clear insight into need, her resourcefulness in meeting difficulties, her urge to relieve human suffering, her clear-headed general management of the work entrusted to her were the reasons for these honors.

When Miss Johnson returned to Winnipeg, she resumed her position as the head of the social service department in the General Hospital. From her own desire and with the consent of the management of the hospital, she took a special course in social service at a school in Boston, during the Summer of 1919. In November she was back at her work in the hospital, and continued there for two years.

A very trying experience was then in store for her. She developed very serious eye trouble, and had to give up her work. A long period of illness followed. Everything possible was done to help her. She spent 4 years at Saranac Lake Sanatorium in New York State; some months in the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal and two years, 1925-27, at the Manitoba Sanatorium, Ninette, Man. In all these attempts to bring back her health, her cheerful and unfailing co-operation, which often demanded great self-denial, contributed much to her recovery. In 1929, after spending two years in the loving care of her sisters in Winnipeg, Mrs. Lára Burns and Miss Jennie Johnson, her health seemed miraculously restored.

Going to the West Coast she spent a very pleasant time at the home of her sister Mrs. Anna Thordarson and Mr. Thordarson, in Seattle, Wash. Soon she took over a nursing home in Vic-

toria, B. C., operating that for 2 or 3 years.

While in Victoria, Inga Johnson received a call from the Board of Directors of Betel Old Folk's Home at Gimli to become matron. Having accepted, she took charge there in January 1933, and carried on for 11 years.

This was the dawning of a new period in her life. The work seemed different from anything she had attempted before; but her good qualities reacted to the new situation as if she had been made for it, and she became the ideal matron. Betel had established a good tradition before she came there; she added fine elements to that tradition. She transformed the institution both in appearance and in management. Under her guiding spirit even the grounds took on added beauty. Her administration was firm and orderly, yet tactful and kind. Everything possible was done for the well-being, comfort and enjoyment of the old people. The former matron, Mrs. Hinriksson, continued to live in the home. Her relation to the new mistress was the happiest possible.

Unfortunately, in 1944, Miss Johnson had another break-down in health which made it imperative for her to give up Betel. She lived with her sisters in Winnipeg and made brief trips to see her sister, Mrs. Thordarson, in Seattle. When it was no longer possible to care for her at home she was taken to the Deer Lodge Hospital, where she lingered for months. She passed away on the third of January, and even to the end there were brief flashes of the old humor and good comradeship, which made her beloved there as elsewhere.

(Rev.) Rúnólfur Marteinsson



Two Leaders Pass Away

DR. AUGUST BLONDAL, Winnipeg physician and surgeon, passed away suddenly, on January 6. He was 58 years old. He is survived by his wife, Guðrún (formerly Stefansson), and four children, all of Winnipeg. They are: Harold, a fourth year student in Medicine, and veteran of World War II, Alvin, in second year pre-medicine; Doris, Mrs. George Johnson, and Jo Ann.

★

MR. JUSTICE HJALMAR A. BERGMAN of the Manitoba Court of Appeal died January 20, after an illness of several months. He was born August 22, 1881, at Gardar, N. D. Surviving him are his widow Emilia Sigurborg (Johnson), formerly of Gardar, N. D.; a daughter, Mrs. Edith Allan, and a son Norman, a lawyer, both of Winnipeg. Another son, Eric, is living in Seattle. Both sons served overseas in the recent war.

★

The loss in the passing of leaders is always more than the personal one suffered by members of the family and close relatives. The community and indeed the nation is the poorer for it. This is especially true in the case of citizens who belong to one of the ethnic groups in this country and in their duties of citizenship have played a twofold role in serving their country and in up-

holding a tradition and heritage bequeathed to them.

Mr. Justice Bergman was the first Canadian of Icelandic descent to be appointed to a Court of Appeal of a province in Canada. If he had lived he would have left behind him a record of judgments which would have stamped him a worthy descendant of his forebears whose conception of the law is so well epitomized in the words of the ancient lawmaker, Njall, who said: "þvi at með lögum skal land vart byggja, enn eigi með ólögum eyða". (By the laws our land shall be builded but not by lawlessness destroyed). This conception of the law, almost approaching a reverence, was deeply rooted in the mind of the late jurist and transmitted into the judgments he rendered during the short time he was spared to serve on the Court of Appeal in Manitoba.

Dr. Blondal's gifts of mind found expression in three ways. As a practitioner he rendered unflagging service, thus upholding the highest tradition in the medical profession. He gave posterity a treasure in his paintings and drawings a living memorial to the appreciation of art with which he was so richly endowed. In his community, social and church work he blended, in a way given to few, a duty to the land in which he was born and the people from whom he sprang.

Dr. Guðmundur G. Thorgrimsen has been elected president of the Medical Assn. of Grand Forks, where he is a practicing physician. He is the son of the late Rev. and Mrs. Hans B. Thorgrimsen.

★

When the City of Winnipeg recently created the new office of traffic eng-

ineer, **Mr. E. F. Gillies** was appointed to fill it. Mr. Gillies is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Gillies of 680 Banning St., who are well known in the Icelandic community of Winnipeg. He studied Civil Engineering at the University of Manitoba, and prior to his new appointment was efficiency engineer at Copper Cliff, headquarters of International Nickle.

OUR WAR EFFORT



L.A.C. KJARTAN OLAFSON—Born at Dafoe, Sask., Sept. 18, 1923. Enlisted in R.C.A.F. Aug. 1, 1944. Served in Canada. Discharged May 3, 1946. Son of Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Olafson, Dafoe, Sask.



CPL. SVEINN SVEINSSON—Born in Iceland Aug. 29, 1910. Enlisted in Canadian Army G.G.H.G. Apr. 1941. Served in Italy, Holland and Germany for 3½ years. Son of Sveinn Jónsson and the late Helga Jónsdóttir, Reykjavík, Icel.



S.B.A. HJALTI H. GUDNASON—Born at Kandahar, Sask. July 19, 1921. Enlisted in R.C.N.V.R. at Saskatoon, Sask. Served on west coast aboard H.M.C.S. Asbestos, Copper and Cliff. Discharged March 7, 1946. Son of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Gudnason, Kandahar, Sask.



C.P.O. JOHN HAROLD VOPNI—Born at Winnipeg, Man., Aug. 20, 1922. Enlisted in the R.C.N.V.R. Dec. 1941. Served on the Atlantic and Pacific. Discharged Oct. 30, 1945. Son of John A. and Laura G. (Bjarnason) Vopni, Davidson, Sask.

Four Brothers



Pte. Carl Olafson



Cpl. Johannes M. Olafson



Cpl. Norman Olafson



Pte. Helgi Olafson

PTE. CARL OLAFSON—Born at Dafoe, Sask., Sept. 3, 1916. Enlisted in the Canadian Army Nov. 1944. Served in Canada. Discharged Nov. 1945.

CPL. JOHANNES M. OLAFSON—Born at Dafoe, Sask., March 30, 1915. Enlisted in Canadian Army July 23, 1942. Served in Canada, United Kingdom and in continental Europe. Was overseas 9 months. Discharged March 12, 1946.

CPL. NORMAN OLAFSON—Born at Dafoe, Sask., Feb. 22, 1917. Enlisted in the R.C.A.F. Served in Canada as Air Engine Mechanic. Discharged Feb. 1946.

PTE. HELGI OLAFSON—Born at Dafoe, Sask., May 8, 1920. Enlisted in the Canadian Army June 1941. Served in Italy and France. Discharged Nov. 1945.

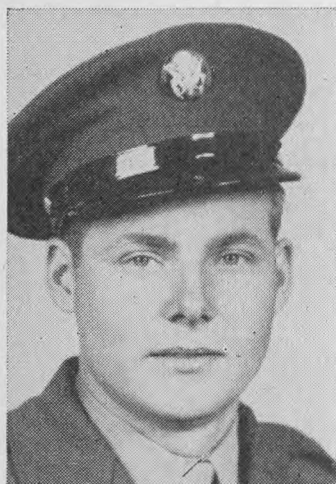
SONS OF B. J. AND THE LATE OLGEIRINA OLAFSON, DAFOE, SASK.

**F.O. H. K. Vidal****Gnr. H. V. Vidal**

F.O. HANNES KRISTINN VIDAL—Born at Hnausa, Man., Sept. 27, 1920. Enlisted in Canadian Army Apr. 1942. Transferred to R.C.A.F. Trained at Edmonton, Alta., Regina, Sask., Dauphin and Winnipeg, Man. Graduated as navigator. Went overseas Dec. 1943. Reported missing Aug. 1944 on his 20th operation over Germany. Later reported prisoner of war. Liberated Apr. 1945. Discharged Sept. 1945.

GNR. HARALDUR VICTOR VIDAL—Born at Hnausa, Man., June 21, 1922. Enlisted in R.C.A.S.C. Jan. 17, 1945. Trained at Shilo and Barriefield. Discharged Aug. 1945.

SONS OF MR. & MRS. SIGVALDI VIDAL, HNAUSA, MAN.

**Pte. William Skuli Johnson****Pte. Bjarni J. Johnson**

PTE. WILLIAM SKULI JOHNSON—Born at Hallson, N.D., Aug. 19, 1925. Entered the service Jan. 1944. Served in European theatre of War. Discharged May 3, 1946.

PTE. BJARNI J. JOHNSON—Born at Hallson, N.D., Sept. 11, 1923. Served in European theatre of war. Wounded and taken prisoner of war in the Normandy invasion. Returned to U.S.A. on a hospital ship Dec. 7, 1944. Disch. Nov. 29, 1945.

SONS OF JOHN B. AND ROSALIND (Lindal) JOHNSON, HALLSON, N.D.



Guðmundur Fjölfnir Goodman

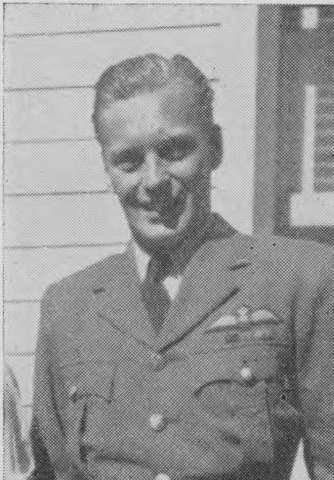


Gnr. R. B. Franklin Goodman

GUÐMUNDUR FJÖLFNIR GOODMAN—Born at Siglunes, Man., Jan. 24, 1915. Enlisted in Winnipeg Rifles June 12, 1943. Trained at Fort Garry and Camp Shilo, Man. Embarked overseas Nov. 1943 and transferred to Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. Served in France and Belgium. Was wounded in Belgium Sept. 12, 1944.

GNR. R. B. FRANKLIN GOODMAN—Born at Vogar, Man., June 16, 1917. Enlisted Apr. 1942 in the R.C.A. Went overseas Sept. 1942. Served in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Discharged Nov. 1945.

**SONS OF MRS HELGA AND THE LATE GUÐMUNDUR GOODMAN,
LUNDAR, MAN.**



F.O. KRISTJAN EINARSON—Born at Gimli, Man., June 12, 1915. Enlisted in R.C.A.F. June 4, 1941. Served in Great Britain and Africa. He was awarded 4 medals. Discharged Oct. 30, 1945. Son of the late Sigurdur and Maria Einarson, Gimli, Man.



A.S. ROBERT SAMUEL LUNDALE—Born at Winnipeg, Man., Aug. 11, 1924. Enlisted in R.C.N.V.R. July 1943. Served on H.M.C.S. Meon on the Atlantic Ocean. Discharged in 1945. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Lundale, Mulvihill, Man.



Flt.-Lieut. S. F. Thorvaldson



Pte. S. O. Thorvaldson

FLT.-LIEUT. STEFAN FRIDRIK THORVALDSON—Born at Riverton, Man., Aug. 16, 1921. Enlisted in R.C.A.F. May 1940. Trained at Toronto, Windsor, Ont., and Saskatoon, Sask. Graduated Dec. 1940, and posted to Trenton, Ont., as instructor. In May 1943 he was posted to Newfoundland on coastal operations. Served with R.A.F. in England and Middle East. Wounded in Italy June 1944. Retd Dec. 1944.
SON OF SVEINN AND KRISTIN THORVALDSON, RIVERTON, MAN.

PTE. SKAFTI OLAFUR THORVALDSON—Born at Riverton, Man., Jan. 13, 1915. Enlisted in R.C.A. April 18, 1944. Trained at Shilo Camp, Man. Transferred to Osborne Barracks June, 1945. Discharged September 1945.

SON OF SVEINN AND THE LATE MARGARET THORVALDSON, RIVERTON, MAN.



Gnr. Wilbert Eric Vopni



Sto. 1/c T. H. Vopni

GNR. WILBERT ERIC VOPNI—Born at Winnipeg, Man., Oct. 8, 1917. Enlisted April 1942. Served in Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium and Holland.

STO. 1/c THORBURN HERMAN VOPNI—Born at Arborg, Man., Dec. 8, 1926. Enlisted in R.C.N.V.R. July, 1943. Served in Canada aboard H.M.C.S. Grou. Disch. Dec. 1945.
SONS OF MR. C. J. AND THE LATE THORBJORG VOPNI, ARBORG, MAN.

**Hjörtur Hjartarson****Steinthor Hjartarson****Gardar Hjartarson**

HJÖRTUR HJARTARSON—Born at Ethridge, Mont., Aug. 30, 1920. Joined the U.S. Army Dec. 1942. Was with the 768th Field Artillery Sn., 1st, 9th and 7th armies, in England, France, Belgium and Germany. Discharged April 1946.

STEINTHOR HJARTARSON—Born at Ethridge, Mont., April 13, 1919. Enlisted Dec. 1942 with 341st Q.M. Depot Co. Served in England, France, Belgium and Germany. Discharged February 1946.

GARDAR HJARTARSON—Born at Ethridge, Mont., Sept. 27, 1917. Was a naval officer in Iceland. Married an Icelandic girl while stationed there.

SONS OF GUNNAR AND ROSA HJARTARSON, ETHRIDGE, MONTANA

**S. 1/c VERNON ASBJORN STURLAUGSON**

★

Born at Langdon, N.D., March 2, 1927. Enlisted in the U.S. Navy Feb. 20, 1945. Trained at Great Lakes, Ill., and Shumaker, Calif. Went overseas Aug. 17, 1945 and served at Guam until May 27, 1946. Discharged Aug. 12, 1946. Attained promotions to Stoker 1/c and received the Asiatic Pacific Ribbon, and American Theatre Ribbon in recognition of honorable service.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Sturlaugson,
Langdon, N.D.

★

S. 1/c V. A. Sturlaugson

**Pte. H. S. Arnfinnson****Pte. Bjorn Arnfinnson****Flt.-Lieut. S. Arnfinnson**

PTE. HALLDOR SIGURDUR ARNFINNSON—Born at Lundar, July 9, 1919. Joined the Canadian Inf. Corps at Little Mountain, Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 1944. Served at Vancouver, B.C., Wetaskiwin, Alta., and Petawawa, Ont. Discharged April 1946.

PTE. BJORN (Barney) ARNFINNSON—Born at Siglunes, Man., Aug. 14, 1910. Joined Edmonton Fusiliers June 1940, and served on west coast. Went overseas with the Calgary Highlanders Feb. 1943. Was transferred in England to P.P.C.L.I. Went to North Africa June 1943. Served with 8th army in Sicily and Italy. Wounded in battle of Moro River, Dec. 1943. Returned April 1944. Discharged Sept. 1944.

FLT.-LIEUT. SIGFUS ARNFINNSON—Born at Siglunes, Man., Sept. 27, 1911. Joined the R.C.A.F. Sept. 1940 at Edmonton, Alta. Served at Ottawa, Ont., Winnipeg, Man., Regina, Sask., Edmonton and Calgary, Alta., as security guard and service police. Discharged February 2, 1945.

SONS OF BJORN AND ANNA ARNFINNSON, LUNDAR, MAN.



In Memoriam

★

L.-C. STEFAN P. ARNGRIMSON

Born at Kandahar, Sask., Jan. 10, 1920. Enlisted in the Canadian Army Nov. 17, 1942. Trained at Cornwall, Ont., Regina, Sask., and Victoria, B. C. Discharged Jan. 4, 1946. He passed away Aug. 31, 1947.

Foster son of Mr. and Mrs. Stefan Arngrimson, Vancouver, B. C.

L.-C. Stefan P. Arngrimson



Rfn. Ingimar Daniel Danielson



Sigmn. Norman S. Danielson

RFN. INGIMAR DANIEL DANIELSON—Born at Arborg, Man., Sept. 8, 1918. Joined the army, July 15, 1942. Served in R.C.A. in Canada and Alaska. Went overseas Jan. 1, 1945. Served with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles in Holland and Germany. Returned Jan. 1, 1946. Discharged Feb. 4, 1946.

“IN MEMORIAM”

SIGMN. NORMAN S. DANIELSON—Born at Arborg, Man., Dec. 21, 1921. Joined the R.C.C.S. Jan. 20, 1945. Trained at Barriefield, Ont., and Winnipeg, Man. Died as a result of a tractor accident while home on leave, Nov. 21, 1945.

SONS OF GUDJON AND UNA GUDLAUG (Gislason) DANIELSON, ARBORG, MAN.



CPL. WILLIAM G. STURLAUGSON—Born Apr. 8, 1922 at Svold, N. D. Enlisted in U.S. Army Oct. 26, 1942. Trained at various points in southern U.S. — Transferred to aviation during latter part of training period. Discharged Dec. 5, 1945. Son of Mrs. Asbjorn Sturlaugson, Svold, N.D.



INGIMUNDUR ELLERT HJALTALIN—Born at Mountain, N. D., June 12, 1900. Joined the U.S. Navy in 1942, going to England that same year. Served in Africa, Philippine Is., and East India for 3 years. Discharged 1946. Son of Hjortur T. and Elin Sigurðardóttir Hjaltalin, Mountain, N. D.

Members' Corner

By HOLMFRIDUR DANIELSON

During the past few years we have from time to time endeavored to give our readers glimpses of interesting personalities, among the descendants of the Icelanders, living in widely scattered parts of this great continent.

Now we have decided that it would be well worth while for the readers of the magazine to meet some of the members of the Icelandic Canadian Club. They are a singularly interesting and, in many ways, an outstanding group of individuals, many of them having distinguished themselves in their chosen fields of endeavor, and in various other ways brought distinction to our small community of Icelandic descendants.

In this issue we give you some notes on a few of our members.

★

It was a pleasant surprise to have Miss Laura Thordarson, who is still our esteemed co-worker in the Club, with us at the annual concert in February. Our tall, lithe and handsome Laura smiled quietly when we registered our awe over her new, important and vastly responsible position. Flying all over the country and supervising the affairs of a well known merchandising firm has not changed her a bit! Hopping from hotel to hotel,—albeit the best, more expensive ones, to be sure—and living out of a suitcase has not in any way impaired her faultless grooming. She radiates happiness and says she loves her work.

Laura was born in Iceland and came to Gimli with her parents Sigurður and Guðriður Thordarsson, where she went to public and high school.

After working at the Hudson's Bay Co., for some time, Laura became clerk at one of the Soble Silk Shops in Winnipeg. Her advancement with that firm has been phenomenal, as now after fif-

teen years of service she has been appointed its first woman supervisor. It was last June that she received the appointment and was immediately whisked down to the Head Office in Hull, Que., to be briefed for the position. This took only three weeks. Since then she has flown from Ottawa to Vancouver, back to Calgary, and Winnipeg, and will be visiting Brandon, Regina and other cities along the route. In addition to supervising the operations of the Soble Shops, her work entails engaging manageresses for the various shops. Thus she spent 2½ months in Calgary around Christmas time re-organizing the staff, and training a new Manageress. This was no easy task just in the midst of the busiest season. A second woman supervisor has since been appointed and these two, together with the men on the job supervise all the Soble Silk Shops from coast to coast.

Laura's parents reside at Gimli, and her sister, Miss Joey Thordarson, teaches school there. Two sisters live in Winnipeg: Mrs. J. Bilsland and Mrs. H. Clark.

★

Yes, we have at least partly lost Laura, but thank goodness we still have Steina. But how she can get along is beyond our understanding, as she and Laura were as inseparable as Siamese twins,—almost. — If someone said at meetings, "Has Steina come?", another would be sure to answer, "Yes, I saw Laura a minute ago". Steina's consolation at present is that she is so busy with her new job, she has little time to mope. Oh, yes she too has been promoted and is now Manageress of one of the Soble Silk Shops in Winnipeg. No doubt her superiors were quick to note her soft-spoken quiet efficiency,

because she has not been with the firm very long, only seven or eight years.

Steina Johnson was born in Winnipeg, but brought up in the Shoal Lake settlement east of Lunda, which is now becoming famous, because of Will Kristjanson's Shoal Lake Sketches (see current issues, Icel. Can.). Steina's parents are the late Philip Johnson and his wife Thordis, who lives in Winnipeg.

★



Dr. L. A. Sigurdson

A familiar figure at all our general meetings, and executive meetings is Dr. L. A. Sigurdson, — Larus, — although half way through the session he usually has to fling on his coat and rush out in response to an urgent call from some strong believer in his powers of healing!

At our annual concert the doctor entertained us with his fine technicolor movies of 'The Eastern Seaboard'. Having spent the three months before Christmas at the New York Polyclinic Hospital taking a course in general surgery, he used his spare moments in catching on his film the beauty and magnificence of the fabulous city of

New York, of Washington, and of the Atlantic coast.

The doctor's hobby of taking interesting moving pictures is now about ten years old and many is the time he has delighted his audience with views of far places that he has visited, together with intimate scenes of activities in our midst, such as the Icelandic Celebration, Icelandic old-timers in animated discussion outside the Good Templars Hall, and various special functions, — such as banquets and ceremonials. He accompanies the movies with a running commentary of the subject matter interspersed with bits of his good humor and jolly banter.

Dr. Sigurdson is the son of the late well-known merchant of Gimli and Riverton, Johannes Sigurdson and his wife Thorbjorg, living at Riverton. He graduated in Medicine from the Manitoba University in 1927, later doing two years of post graduate work at Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif. While there he met Miss Helen Page from Colorado, who later became his wife. After studying in England and Ireland for a year he practised medicine in Barrie, Ont., taking up his work as physician and surgeon in Winnipeg in 1931.

Dr. and Mrs. Sigurdson have four children: Frances, at present at school in Rockford, Ill., Johannes, Jon, and Eric at home.

★

And how we miss our Ann Anderson, who had to get herself promoted to Head Office in Montreal after being buyer and chief of the Hudson's Bay Winnipeg Ladies' Wear Department. We can see that the golden-blond good looks of Miss Anderson would lend a certain distinction and charm to the department down east, but we miss the warmth and glow that she spread around her in the community here and especially in the Icelandic Canadian club.

Ann was born in Iceland, but

brought up by her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Gunnlaugur Sölvason, of Selkirk. After she came to Winnipeg to go to school and then find a niche for herself in the business world, she lived with her aunt, Mrs. Halldora (Sölvason) Dalman. Another aunt, Mrs. M. W. (Lilja) Dalman, also resides in Winnipeg. She was for a number of years music teacher at Selkirk. Ann's uncle, Stefán Sölvason, well known in Winnipeg as orchestra and choir conductor, is now resident in Vancouver.

Ann started working for the Bay fifteen years ago and had become Ladies' Wear Department head and buyer, which position she held for two years. Two years ago she was given a position in the Head Buying Office at Montreal, where she is held in much esteem by her superiors.

Ann is still a member of the club and keeps in touch with the old crowd.

★

Mrs. Ena Anderson has just moved to the West coast, and is at present living at White Rock, B. C.

With Ena went her father Karl Nielson and her young son Carl. Her husband, Clifford Anderson died in Toronto while serving with the Canadian Army.

Our dainty little Ena, who is only "as big as a minute", has great vitality, and has held positions as stenographer and dictaphone operator, while managing a home and doing voluntary service in the community. Before her marriage she worked in Chicago and Toronto.

The very best wishes of the club members go with her, together with their sincere and everlasting gratitude for her wonderful, unselfish services so freely given at all times. She has from the first served on various important committees, and especially rendered outstanding service as convener of the Social committee, being indispensable at all functions. For the last two years she has been vice-president of the club. A finer, more loyal and efficient co-

worker no organization could wish for. We hope she will get tired of the coast and come back to us!

★

Who is the busiest man on Banning street? Why, the new president of the Icelandic National League, Rev. Philip M. Petursson! If you don't believe us just try trailing after him for a week or so, and see how exhausted you will be!



Rev. Philip M. Petursson

He serves two congregations, Icelandic and English,—which are united under one general church council—at the First Federated church, on Banning street. He is serving his third consecutive, two-year term on the Winnipeg School board, where he gets involved in innumerable committees. One of these is the School Survey committee, of which he is the chairman, having been the originator of the idea. He is very anxious to see the ideas suggested by that committee implemented here.

Petursson also thinks himself quite a handy man with a saw and hammer, after helping to build his beautiful modern house on Banning street, which

he and his wife had a lot of fun designing. The few slight personal misadventures he sustained while on the job, might possibly be attributed to inexperience, he admits, but the satisfaction he derived from the work was well worth it.

Mr. Petursson has also found time to attend meetings of the Icelandic Canadian club and serve on its committees. It is an interesting fact that he is the first president of the Icelandic National League, born on this side of the Atlantic.

He was born in Minnesota, but came to Winnipeg as a youth with his parents, Olafur and Anna Petursson. After teaching school for three years, he went to the University of Chicago, graduating from there and from Meadville Theological School, and was ordained in 1929. He spent the winter of 1934-35 in Iceland studying the language, and on his return became pastor of the First Federated church. He was married in 1926 to Thorey Gislason. They have two children, Anna, and Philip Olafur, who is attending the University of Manitoba.

★

It never rains but it pours! But as long as the showers bring success and good fortune, why, let it rain! Two years ago Tryggvi J. Oleson received his appointment as professor in the History Department of United College, Winnipeg, coming there from the University of British Columbia, where he had been lecturer in History. Concluding a distinguished scholastic career, he obtained his M.A. from the University of Manitoba. He did post-graduate work leading to a Ph.D. at the U. of Toronto, and has now been awarded an \$860.00 Fellowship at Queen's University, Toronto, which will enable him to finish his Ph.D. course. He will go east and study at Queens during June, July and August, returning to United Collège in the fall.

Last June Prof. Oleson joined the

editorial staff of the Icelandic Canadian. On Feb. 25, last he was elected vice-president of the Icelandic National



Prof. Tryggvi J. Oleson

League. He is also president of the local League chapter, 'Frón'.

Tryggvi is the son of Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Oleson, Glenboro. He is married to the former Elva Eyford. They have two children.

★

"Bur-r-r", said Hannes Lindal when he came from California and struck head on into our extra session of Manitoba winter, the second week in March. Now Hannes, don't be like that. After one winter in California you haven't forgotten that Winnipeg is the "coldest city of its size, in the world?" "Yes, but 33.2 below on March 10". Well, that's just for good measure, may not have that again for years! This is the coldest 10th of March in 68 years.

We heartily wished you wouldn't like California, as we miss you and Sigrun mightily. We miss the comradeship, and the generous informal entertaining. Why, it was nothing for Hannes and Sigrun to invite 20-30 guests for dinner! — "Come over about five on Sunday, I'm having a few of the Press Club for dinner". — The few turned

out to be twenty-six people of various racial descents, who spent the afternoon, enjoyed a delightful, full course meal, and animated conversation.

Sigrun,—Mrs. Lindal,—was always a splendid worker in the Club, and her efforts were especially valuable at the time the Magazine was organized. She served as News Editor for 4 years, and gave assistance in other ways. Hannes served for years on the Executive, and his good judgment was always acceptable.

The Lindals suddenly took a fancy to the sunny South, and last fall they sold their Winnipeg home, and moved to Los Angeles, with their son Gaylord. They have two married daughters in California; they are Pearl, Mrs. Jim Powers, and Violet, Mrs. R. Hamilton. Another son, Hannes, is in business in Toronto.

Hannes J. Lindal is a well known Winnipeg Real Estate man and Grain Broker.



Music Collection

The committee in charge of collecting original music, reports excellent progress, having already received almost thirty compositions, from all over this continent. The Icelandic Canadian club is grateful for this fine response, and especially for the many letters of commendation that have been received from educators and public spirited citizens.

Recently a letter was received from Dr. Stefan Einarsson, of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, which shows keen interest in the project and gives some splendid suggestions. The letter reads in part:

"It made me very happy to read the letter in the *Icelandic Canadian*, Autumn, 1947, soliciting the collection of original musical compositions among the American-Icelanders. I quite agree with the committee on the cultural value of such a collection, and I would not be surprised if it were found that American Icelanders had developed special traits characteristic of their community only.

"I write to suggest that the committee extend its program in two ways. I wish they would extend their collection to try to get not only samples

for publishing, but all which they can get together, a complete collection of Icel.-American folk music and art music, a repositorium where these things could be preserved at least in manuscripts for following generations.

"But I wish they would do still more. I wish they would collect the melodies which the old-timers brought over with them from Iceland.

"These melodies would chiefly be of three kinds: *rímnalög*, *tvisöngslög*, and old-fashioned *sálmalög*. All these types can be found in *Íslenzk þjóðlög* by Bjarni Thorsteinsson, but I have no doubt that many specimens that have not found their way into *Íslenzk þjóðlög*, could be culled from the memories of the oldest Icelanders in Canada and U. S. A."

Dr. Einarsson then pointed out some of the difficulties in collecting these and also makes some excellent suggestions.

The Club is pleased to say that the same idea of a repositorium for all music composed by North American Icelanders was also discussed, when this project was launched, and will be under consideration in the future. Regarding Dr. Einarsson's second suggest-

ion, it is interesting to note that Mrs. Gudmunds, the chairman of the music committee, has toyed with that idea for a long time. Her father Nikulas Ottenson (whom Dr. Einarsson mentions in his letter) was well versed in the old Icelandic chant-tunes (*rimnalög*) and ten years ago when he visited her in Berkley, California, he made a record for her including five *rimnalög*.

Dr. Einarsson goes on to say in his letter:

"I know, of course, that many, perhaps most, of those who have devoted themselves to music, whether to the modern folk music or to the more exclusive Art music, not to speak of the lovers of modern dance music, do not like the types that I have mentioned above.

But the fact remains that the music — like the Icelandic language, and like the Sagas — is something which the Icelanders have preserved by unbroken tradition from olden times, and has therefore come to be more characteristic of Iceland than all other music, however popular.

"Now I do not mean to imply that *tvisöngur* or *rimnalög* would ever conquer the world as the tom-tom and the spirituals of the Negroes have done, though I see no inherent reason why the Negro music should become more popular than Icelandic folk-music. I have ever since I came to America and especially since the advent of the radio, been driven crazy by American jazz, and it did me a world of good to hear that English sailors had to turn off their radio in the neighborhood of Iceland because of the "crazy man" coming over the air, the crazy man being some *rimnasöngvari* in Reykjavík.

"This at least was a token vengeance for me! I see no reason why the time would not come when Icelandic composers, tired of the sweet music, would turn to these dour old songs and fashion them into a new

musical language, which very well might become the envy and the wonder of the world.

"It is for this reason that I would ask the Icelandic friends of music in Winnipeg, to take good care of these good old — though some would call them ugly — songs. "*Engin veit hvað átt hefir fyr en misst hefir*, (You don't realize what treasures you possessed until you have lost them)".

(signed) Stefan Einarsson.

Here are also a few other excerpts from letters regarding this project, and the work of the Icelandic Canadian Club, in general:

"I have been aware of the meritorious efforts of the Icel. Can. club, and the worthy part thereof of which you are an exponent. In conclusion, I would say that the efforts of the Club as well as your own musical activities are worthy of the highest commendation."

Frank Olson, (Teacher)
(Formerly of Gimli)

"I am greatly interested in your project and wish you success in this very worth while work." Stefania B. Denbrow (formerly Bjornsson of Minneapolis).

"I am interested in this timely undertaking which I hope is meeting with the desired response", Dr. R. Beck, Grand Forks, N. D.

"I assure you that I appreciate the excellent work you are doing in Winnipeg. Regarding the music collection. I fought for the same idea twenty years ago Wishing you all possible success."

(Prof) S. K. Hall Wynyard, Sask.

The Icelandic Canadian club is planning to put on a concert in the spring where samples of the compositions will be performed. There will be vocal and instrumental solos, as well as choral music, with probably an orchestra selection.

Icelandic Old Folk Homes In North America

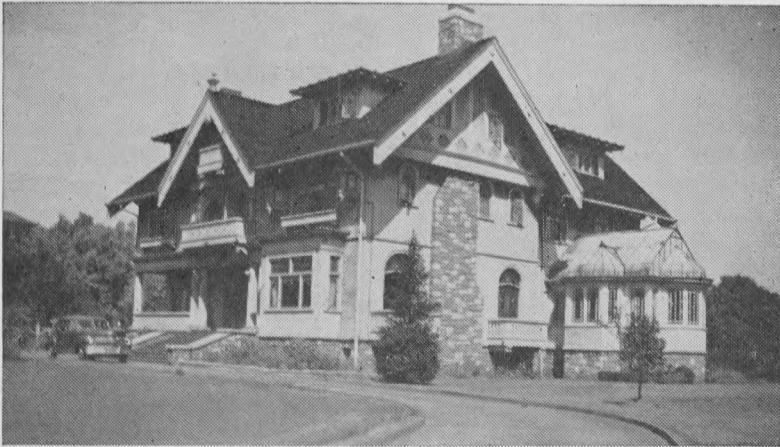
By CAROLINE GUNNARSON

The pioneer generation of Icelanders in Canada and the United States had no more than dropped the spade from weary old hands when voices were heard amongst us that these old timers should not be left to the vagaries of fate in their declining years. Old Age Pensions had hardly been dreamed of, and it was felt that many of our people were without close kin, infirm and destitute in a country where they had not yet become thoroughly assimilated.

handed generosity. A beautiful home is already operating in Vancouver, B. C., while plans are well advanced for similar ventures in Mountain, North Dakota and Blaine, Washington.

VANCOUVER

The Icelandic Old Folks Home in Vancouver, B. C., was officially opened in October 1947. A beautiful family home, situated at 3498 Osler Street, was bought and adapted to this purpose.



The Icelandic Old Folks Home — Vancouver, B. C.

A home with familiar environment, a decent measure of comfort, books, and people who spoke their language was no more than their due. The whole-hearted efforts which followed resulted in Betel Old Folks Home at Gimli, Manitoba, where many a pathfinder has reached the end of the road in peace and satisfying comradeship for over thirty years.

Now other Icelandic communities on this continent find themselves gradually aging, and as the need for an old folks home makes itself felt, each one of them is meeting the problem with sturdy determination and open-

The expense incurred is largely paid up.

At the last report eighteen persons were being cared for in the home, although it has ample accommodation for thirty. It is a cheerful, attractive abode with all modern comforts and conveniences. In the basement is a library and reading room, where book addicts may choose from hundreds of books and magazines in Icelandic, English and Norwegian. Additional volumes are constantly being contributed to this library.

Matron of the home is Mrs. Thompson, and Assistant Matron Kristin Skor-

dal. Mr. G. F. Gislason, formerly of Winnipeg is president of the Executive Committee.

MOUNTAIN, N. D.

In the south-east corner of the Village of Mountain, North Dakota, six acres of land await the erection of a modern Icelandic Old Folks Home. This land, overlooking a beautiful valley to the east, was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Olafson and Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hannesson. The eight Icelandic Lutheran Congregations of North Dakota are sponsoring the venture. Plans for the building have been drawn by J. B. Stephenson, Architect, of Moose Jaw, Sask., and the Committee in charge is ready to call for tenders early this spring.

Cost of construction was originally estimated at \$65,000.00, but increased prices of labour and materials have rendered this amount inadequate. However, collections received amount

to over \$40,000.00, including a \$15,000 grant committed by the Betel Board from the Pathfinders Fund.

BLAINE, WASHINGTON

Early in 1945 the Icelandic Society, "Aldan", a member of the Icelandic National League, met to discuss plans for the establishment of an Icelandic Old People's Home. A committee of five was put to work on the project. It was agreed to form an independent incorporated organization. This has now been accomplished and Articles of Incorporation properly filed.

The objective, in 1945, was \$55,000, but owing to current high prices, this is now considered inadequate. However, plans for a one story structure have been completed and one city block of ground secured. Sewer and drainage have already been installed.

\$25,000.00 in funds has been collected, including \$10,000.00 donated by Stoneson Brothers of San Francisco.

★

Icelandic National League Convention

The 29th. annual convention of the Icelandic National League was held in Winnipeg, February 23, 24 and 25. In the absence of Rev. V. J. Eylands, who is spending a year in Iceland as exchange pastor, Rev. P. M. Petursson, vice-president, presided at the convention.

As usual, large enthusiastic audiences attended the evening entertainments, but in addition the business sessions of the convention were especially well attended. There were visitors from far and near, and several delegates from most of the chapters of the league, some sending as many as five delegates.

Three outstanding reports were given at the convention, on projects that are of utmost importance in the field of our cultural activities:

1. Paul Bardal reported on the Mem-

orial Hall, which has been under discussion for the last three years. He brought to the convention a full-fledged blue print of the proposed building, with estimates of cost totaling about \$50,000 together with many valuable suggestions, including a suitable site, viz: the lot on the corner of Home St. and Sargent Ave. The convention passed a resolution giving the Executive of the League authority to sell the business building on Home St. if opportunity offered, with a view to putting the money into the Memorial Hall, and further granting them authority to take an option on the above mentioned building site.

2. Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson gave a report on the progress made in establishing a Chair in Icelandic at the University of Manitoba. The amount

already donated is \$65,000. The convention voted the sum of \$2,000 to that worthy project.

3. Mrs. H. F. Danielson, who during the last year has been Educational representative of the League, reported on the work accomplished in that field. Seventeen visits have been made, she said, to the Manitoba chapters, at Gimli, Riverton, Arborg, Lunder, Glenboro and Baldur. She has held public meetings, contacted young people, visited homes, engaged teachers, and assisted them in organizing the work. Over 80 homes have been visited in these districts and in Winnipeg. Through this effective cultural effort of the League over 400 people, young and old are at present furthering their knowledge of the Icelandic language and literature. Four large Icelandic schools are functioning, two children's choirs and two study groups. Thirty-four people are giving their time and talents as teachers, choir directors, accompanists, etc.

Mrs. Danielson outlined the splendid possibility of study groups for the purpose of reading and discussing Icelandic history and literature. She suggested further that co-ordination of the efforts of all the volunteer workers in the field of Icelandic culture, was necessary and that teachers and other youth leaders should have the opportunity of meeting occasionally to study and pool their resources. This would make the work more effective, more interesting and far more pleasant.

The convention showed wholeheartedly its enthusiasm for this work, and a resolution was passed urging the Executive to make every effort to continue cultural activities along these lines.

Mrs. Danielson has been invited to visit the chapters at Vancouver, Selkirk, and Brown, Manitoba, in the spring.

The annual concert of the Icelandic Canadian club was held Monday evening, February 23, in the First Lutheran church. The president, Axel Vopnfjord, was in the chair. A short address

was given by Rev. J. I. McKinney on "Impressions of Ireland"; Dr. L. A. Sigurdson showed moving pictures in technicolor, of the "Eastern Seaboard"; Mrs. Irene Thorolfson gave two groups of violin solos, accompanied by Douglas Bodle, and Kerr Wilson conducted the Junior Board of Trade male voice choir in a group of songs. Mr. Wilson also rendered vocal solos, and two duets with Miss Sylvia Johnson. The accompanist was Mrs. Thelma (Guttormson) Wilson.

The Winnipeg chapter, 'Frón', held its concert the following evening. Prof. T. J. Oleson presided; Dr. Arni Helgason, Chicago, gave an address and showed colored movies from Iceland, including the eruption of Mount Hekla; Ragnar Stefansson and Dr. S. J. Johannesson gave readings, Miss Thora Asgeirson gave a group of piano solos and Mrs. Rosa (Hermanson) Vernon sang two groups of Icelandic songs. She was accompanied by her sister, Mrs. E. A. Isfeld.

At the closing meeting of the convention, held Wednesday evening in the First Federated church, Dr. Helgason showed the Icelandic pictures again; Rev. Eiríkur Brynjólfsson, exchange pastor from Iceland, gave an address; Allan Beck gave violin solos, Mrs. Elma Gislason, vocal solos, and Misses Dorothy and Ethelwyn Vernon, vocal duets.

At this final meeting the Icelandic National League conferred Honorary membership on Dr. Arni Helgason of Chicago and Dr. Thorbergur Thorvaldson, dean of the New College of Graduate Studies, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon.

Rev. P. M. Petursson was elected president, and Prof. T. J. Oleson, vice-president. Re-elected to office were: Rev. H. E. Johnson, sec.; J. J. Bildfell, asst. sec.; G. L. Johannson, treas.; Arni G. Eggertson, K.C., vice-treas.; G. Levy, financial sec.; Rev. E. H. Fafnis, vice-financial sec., and Olafur Petursson, archivist.

Book Reviews

"SKILARÉTT", PÁLL S. PÁLSSON Viking Press, Winnipeg

This is Mr. Pálsson's second book of poems, the first, *Norður-Reykir*, named for his birthplace in Iceland, was published in Winnipeg in 1936.

According to the author's preface, *Skilarétt* will also be the last. As the name implies, this is the final round-up and all his poems, hitherto scattered through various Icelandic newspapers and periodicals, are now to be found within the covers of these two books.

Pálsson's poetry is marked by an intense and at times a brooding preoccupation with childhood memories of his homeland. This is not uncommon in those who left their native land at an impressionable age, but few of our Icelandic Canadian poets have given better expression to this feeling. Another characteristic is a fine sense of humor, admirably illustrated in the group "*Jón og Kata*". Selections from this group, sung by the author at both public and private gatherings on numerous occasions, have already made this pair part of our local folklore. These poems deal with the hopes, disappointments and in this case the triumphs of the immigrant. They represent a variation in comic vein on the theme of Einar Kvaran's great story, "*Vonir*", and in this field are a real contribution to Icelandic literature.

Due perhaps to the peculiar qualities of the language, and the Icelander's skill in the arrangement of words, much of our poetic output is merely rhymed prose. The author's work can not altogether escape this criticism and some of his poems may justly be classed with the great bulk of Icelandic occasional verse, which rarely possesses any permanency. Nevertheless Mr. Pálsson's book contains poems of rare beauty and deep feeling, which clearly place

him among the best of our present day poets. Of these poems, the following deserve special mention: "*Hraungangan*", "*Kveldstjarnan*", "*Dr. Magnus B. Halldorsson*" and "*Móðurmissir*", to name but a few.

In a very special group are the poems which the author has dedicated to the memory of his three brothers, all of whom died within a period of twelve months. *Hjörtur* in Oct. 1947, *Kristján* in Feb. 1947 and *Jónas* in Sept. 1947. All were men of uncommon gifts and widely known in their respective communities.

It is to be hoped that the last member of this clan will be spared for many a day yet. Icelandic literature in the West, now in decline, can ill afford to lose him.

H. Th.

★

"ICELAND AND GREENLAND"

What do you know about modern Iceland? Have you ever been at a loss to answer when Canadians ask you the size of Iceland, its population, the nature and extent of its trade, the range of temperature recorded there, what kind of animals, birds, insects and flowers it produces? Do you know how the present Althing is made up, and what is the constitution of the courts of Iceland?

These and many other questions are answered in a booklet published by the Smithsonian Institution, printed on fine paper and illustrated with a wide range of first class photographs.

The pamphlet deals extensively with the language and literature of Iceland, and states that:

"Educational standards in Iceland have always been high. There is no illiteracy. The standard education is well illustrated by the fact that in Iceland there is one publication for each 466 of the inhabitants, while the num-

ber in Denmark is 1,106; in Norway 1,558; in Sweden 2,309; in Britain 3,205; and in the United States 12,497. The Icelanders therefore publish 27 times as much per capita as the United States."

"Iceland and Greenland" by Austin H. Clark, is Number Fifteen of the

Smithsonian Institution War Background Series. It can be highly recommended as a handy and authoritative book on Iceland. It is Publication No. 3735 and can be had from the Smithsonian Institution, Washington D. C. for 35 cents.

Svanhvit Josie

★

In The News

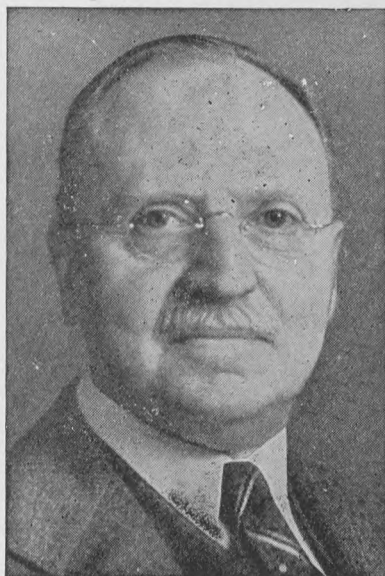
ICELANDIC MINISTER TO CANADA



His Excellency Thor Thors, Iceland's first minister to Canada arrived in Ottawa January 19, and the following day presented his credentials to the Governor General. He is also Icelandic minister to the United States.

"We will have to be 'Air-commuters' between Ottawa and Washington", said Mrs. Thors who accompanied her husband together with their twenty-year old daughter, Margret. During their stay at Ottawa they made their home at the Chateau Laurier. They have a home in Washington where their two sons, Ingolfur, 17, and Thor jr., 13, are attending school.

HONORED ON 70th BIRTHDAY



Dr. Halldor Hermannsson, professor of Scandinavian Languages and Literature at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., reached his 70th birthday January 6. On Jan. 11, he was honored at a dinner sponsored by Dr. Helgi Briem, at Hampshire House, New York.

Dr. Briem addressed the guest of honor presenting him with a beautifully bound brochure of greetings and messages. This "Afmæliskeðja" (Birthday Greetings), which contained articles of tribute and appreciation from a number of Dr. Hermannsson's contemporaries in Iceland, was a re-print

from the Year Book of the National Library of Iceland, and was published by the Librarian, Finnur Sigmundsson.

Others who addressed the guest of honor were: Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson and Dr. Stefan Einarsson, of Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Hermannsson, who has since 1905 been Librarian for the Fiske Icelandic Collection, which Willard Fiske donated to Cornell University, is a well-known literary and academic figure, being as well teacher, bibliographer, and editor of the "Islandica" since 1908. This monumental work, which he has edited and in the main authored, now comprises 31 volumes, all dealing with Iceland and Icelandic lore.

★

YOUNG COLUMNIST

Miss Betty White, whose trip last November to London was sponsored by the Winnipeg Free Press, is beginning to realize her cherished ambition, that of becoming a newspaper woman.

Betty, having sent a wedding gift to Princess Elizabeth, received an invitation to a Royal party at St. James' Palace, held Nov. 18th, by their Majesties King George and Queen Elizabeth for their daughter, the Princess Elizabeth and Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, whose wedding took place November 20th. During her trip, Betty's daily news letters to the Free Press gave its readers a delightful account of London at the time of the Royal festivities.

At the December meeting of the Icelandic Canadian club, a large gathering of members and friends had the opportunity of hearing Betty tell of her experiences in London, when she was interviewed by Mrs. H. F. Danielson.

Since her return, Betty has been writing a weekly column for the Free Press, entitled "High-School High-lights, a column of teen age interests, by Betty White". In her column she tells about the Winnipeg high schools, their work in the fields of music, drama, sports and social activities.

Sixteen-year old Betty, who is a student in grade XII at Daniel McIntyre Collegiate, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. P. White of 1288 Dominion St. Mrs. White is the former Sigríður Sigurdson, and came to Canada from Iceland when seventeen years old.

★

Dr. Helgi P. Briem, Icelandic Consul-General in New York for the past five years, has been appointed Icelandic Chargé d' Affaires in Sweden. He left New York recently to take up his new post. In his place Hannes Kjartansson was appointed Consul in New York.

★

MRS. SKAPTASON HONORED



The Alliance of Liberal Icelandic Christian Women honored **Mrs. J. B. Skaptason** at her home, 378 Maryland St., on the occasion of her 70th birthday, March 16. On behalf of the members, the president, Mrs. Marja Björnson, presented her with an illuminated address and a life membership in the General Alliance, Boston. Mrs. Skaptason received many messages of congratulations and floral tributes. She has been an active community worker, especially in the Alliance and in the

Jon Sigurdson chapter, I.O.D.E., which she was instrumental in organizing in 1916.

Mrs. Skaptason is the daughter of the pioneer, Simon Simonarson and his wife, Valdis, and was born near Gimli, Manitoba.

★

Arni Sigurdson's painting, "White Christmas" won the popularity vote at this year's annual exhibition sponsored by the Manitoba Society of Artists, which opened March 7, at the Winnipeg Auditorium. On display are 95



Arni Sigurdson

paintings and one sculpture by 53 artists. Each year during the first week of the exhibit, visitors to the Art Gallery are asked to register their choice among the paintings, and this year their choice was Arni's picture.

In his comments on the exhibition, V.L.L. of the Winnipeg Free Press says: "Special mention in this group goes to a tour de force, reminiscent of Franz Johnson's winter woodland pictures, Arni Sigurdson's 'White Christmas', where varied intensities of white create an extraordinary impression of chill purity."

Ever since he was a young lad in Iceland, Arni has enjoyed drawing and painting pictures, but the opportunity for formal instruction and training did not come his way. He studied the carpenter's trade in Iceland and in Copenhagen, coming to Canada in 1910 with his wife, Hallfríður Stefánsdóttir, who died in 1937.

His artistic temperament has found an outlet in many spheres, especially in the field of dramatics. From the time he arrived in Winnipeg and as long as he was resident in Icelandic communi-

ties he has been active in dramatic circles. When the actress, Guðrún Indriðadóttir came from Reykjavík in 1912 to portray Halla in 'Fjalla Eyvindur', Arni took the title role.

His artistry was a valuable asset also, where staging was concerned, and he painted scenery for the Federated Church drama group in Winnipeg, with whom he was actor-director for a number of years. Later, in Wynyard, Sask., he produced and directed a number of Icelandic plays until 1938 when he left Wynyard.

During the last few years he has been employed by the Winnipeg Electric company at Seven Sisters Falls, Man., as painter and building maintenance man, where he is active in the local community club.

Though no longer working directly with Icelandic drama groups, his enthusiasm for their activities has not been dampened, as is well illustrated by his very fine article in the 1947 "Tímarit" of the Icelandic National League. In this article, which has necessitated considerable research, he traces to some extent the history of dramatic activities among the Icelanders in North America.

And always, throughout the years, he worked at his beloved paintings, painstakingly perfecting his technique and developing his creative abilities. And although this is the first time that this modest artist has submitted a picture to the exhibition, it is to be hoped that many more of his works will be forthcoming in the future.

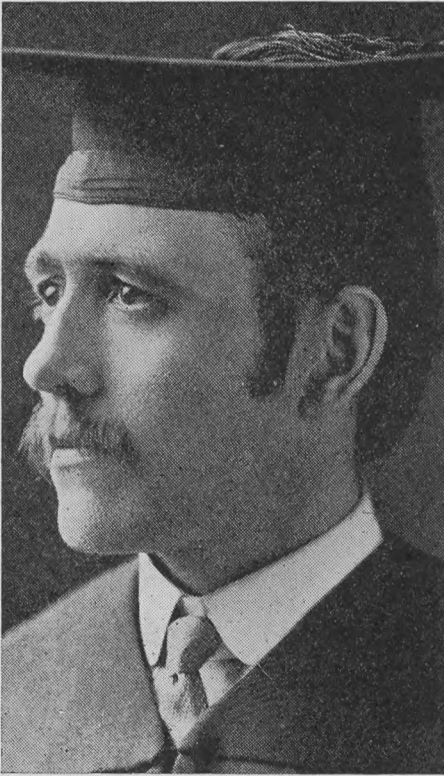
★

There was a double celebration, February 17, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Finnur Johnson, Ste. 14, Thelmo Mansions, when a large gathering of friends visited them to bring birthday congratulations to both of them. Mrs. Johnson, — Guðrún, — was eighty years old that day, and Finnur's 80th birthday came a few days later, March 6. Telegrams, flowers and messages of

congratulations came from all over, including seven cablegrams from Iceland. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are well known in this community. (See article on 'Hobbies', June 1947 issue, Icelandic Canadian).

★

SIGURDUR JULIUS JOHANNES- SON HONOURED



On the 9th of January friends throughout the city of Winnipeg and farther afield crowded into First Lutheran church to honour **Dr. Sigurdur Julius Johannesson** and his wife, for just a day before the doctor had completed the eightieth year of a rich and useful life—not rich in material goods, to be sure, for this versatile and gifted man seldom had a thought to give to personal interests.

The gathering was sponsored by the Icelandic National League, but numerous other organizations and individ-

uals participated. Rev. Eirikur Brynjolfsson opened the program with a prayer and also spoke briefly. Rev. Philip Petursson then brought a message of good wishes, and short speeches were delivered by J. J. Bildfell on behalf of himself and the Icelandic National League; by G. F. Jonasson on behalf of the Committee in charge of publishing the History of Icelanders in the Western Hemisphere, now being written by P. P. Þorsteinsson; A. S. Bardal on behalf of the International Order of Good Templars; and Dr. Kristján J. Austman on behalf of the medical profession.

Einar P. Jonsson paid a short tribute to the poet and journalist, whose strong, free pen has given life to every cause it served, and Sigurdur Julius Johannesson has wielded that pen as an unrelenting reformer, rebel and idealist; as the born teller of children's stories, the lyric poet with music in every line, the light hearted humorist, but always, and above all the passionate lover of humanity and champion of human rights.

Original poems were contributed by Ragnar Stefansson, Rev. Halldor E. Johnson, Magnus Markussón, Páll Guðmundson, Þórður Christie and Arthur Reykdal. Telegrams poured in from Iceland and all parts of North America. A warm hearted message came from the community of Lundar, where the doctor served in a professional capacity for many years.

Toward the end of the program a cheque was presented to the guest of honour, as a token of affection and gratitude for his years of service to the community.

Mrs. Johannesson, who before her marriage was Halldora Fjeldsted, was presented with a bouquet of roses. Their daughter, Mrs. Svanhvit Josie came from Ottawa to celebrate with her parents. Another daughter, Miss Malfridur Johannesson is engaged in Social Service work in Ottawa.

It is a heartening and faith-restoring

thing to see this healer, artist and humanitarian—this gallant champion of many controversial causes—garner in the accumulated wages of a lifetime—his eighty years' worth of love and respect from his fellow men.

★

A PIONEER PASSES

Mrs. Guðný Fredrickson, 91, passed away March 9, at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fredrickson, 669 Wolseley Ave., Winnipeg.

She was born at Harðbak in Melrakkaslétta, that tiny tip of Iceland that reaches within the Arctic circle, and lived to be the last survivor of the adults who came to Canada as the first group of Icelandic immigrants, in 1873. Her pioneering experience was widespread and varied. Not yet seventeen years of age, she was married on the way to the ship to Friðjón Fredrickson, who became interpreter for the immigrants and later one of the leaders in the Gimli settlement of 1875. They went first to Rosseau, Ontario, then to Milwaukee Wis., New Iceland, and finally Glenboro. Friðjón died in 1913.

Besides her son, Harold, she is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Thomas H. Johnson, Hartford, Conn., and another son Kari, in Toronto.

★

CARNIVAL QUEENS

Miss Dolores Swanson was crowned queen of the Ice Club Carnival, held in Winnipeg in January. Dolores is a proficient and graceful figure skater. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Swanson, and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Swanson of Winnipeg.

Miss Joan Johannesson was queen at the ice carnival of Commercial Travelers at Dauphin, Manitoba, Saturday February 28. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Johannesson of Dauphin. Adolph is the son of Gudmundur and Kristveig Johannesson of 920 Sherburn St., Winnipeg. As part of her award Joan was given a free trip by air to Toronto, where she was welcomed by

Mayer H. E. McCallum, was the guest of radio commentator Claire Wallace, and had a five-day tour of the city.

Miss Joyce Thorkelson has been elected Lady Stick of the Home Economics Faculty of the University of Manitoba. Miss Thorkelson, a third year student in Home Economics, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Thorkelson of Gimli, Man. While in her last year at Gimli Collegiate she was awarded one of the Manitoba Government \$650.00 scholarships.

★

Last fall 27-year old Arnthor Marino Kristjanson was awarded a National Research Council Scholarship of \$750.

Graduating from the University of Saskatchewan with the 1942 class in Chemistry, Mr. Kristjanson joined the Canadian Army early in 1943. Upon his retirement as Lieutenant in 1945 he was appointed to the teaching staff of that University and simultaneously studied for and attained his Master's degree. At present he is pursuing a Doctor's degree in Chemistry at McGill University in Montreal. He is married to the former Miss Phyllis Green, and is the son of Mr. Hákon Kristjanson and his wife, Guðný of Wynyard.

An older brother, Jónas Ingiberg Kristjanson, has also been gathering in a few scholastic honors. Graduating from high school at the age of fifteen, he retired to his father's farm and devoted the next few years to agriculture. In 1941 he began a course in Agricultural Engineering and Soil Research at the University of Saskatchewan, and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in 1947, teaching classes at the university during the latter years of his course. He has won three scholarships of \$150.00 each and has been awarded two cups and a silver medal for his work on boards of judges in husbandry, involving intimate and precise knowledge of all varieties of wheat grown in Western Canada. At present he is employed by the Saskatchewan Government as assessor of farm lands and properties.

LEAVES FOR CHINA

Recent visitors in Winnipeg were **Major and Mrs. Jon O. Sigurdsson**, with their two children, Daryl and Bonnie Lynn. They left Feb. 28, for St. Paul, Los Angeles and San Francisco, to sail March 10, for China where Major Sigurdsson will serve with the American forces in Nanking on the advisory board of the Chinese surgeon-general. He is on loan from the United States Army.

Major Sigurdsson was graduated in Medicine from the University of Manitoba and enlisted in the American Army December 2, 1941. He served in the South Pacific as surgeon on army transports, and later in the Atlantic, between Europe and New York. He is the son of Mrs. Sigurdsson of Long Island, and the late Rev. J. A. Sigurdsson, formerly of the Lutheran church at Selkirk. His picture appeared in the Icelandic Canadian, Autumn 1947.

Mrs. Sigurdsson is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. McJohnston of Warren, and is a graduate of the St. Boniface school of nursing.

★

Dr. Stefán Einarsson, professor of Scandinavian Literature at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, has been appointed associate editor of "Scandinavian Studies", a quarterly published by the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study. Dr. Einarsson has been a frequent contributor to that magazine.

★

SANDY BAR HOTEL, RIVERTON, MAN.

A recently erected hotel in Riverton, Manitoba, was formally opened January 31st. The name "Sandy Bar" was given to the hotel to honor the memory of the Icelandic pioneers who settled in the district in 1875 at a point on Lake Winnipeg called Sandy Bar. In due respect to its historic name, the superb construction and finish make it one of the most modern hotels in the province.

It is steam heated and conveniently furnished. The massive fireplace in the rotunda exudes an atmosphere of warmth and welcome. The proprietors, Gus Romaniuk and J. Melenick have shown their faith in the future prosperity of the community by investing a large fortune in this structure.

And their faith may be justified. Through the eager efforts of Dr. S. O. Thompson, M.L.A., and municipal councillor, S. V. Sigurdson, extensive drainage has been done north of Riverton, with a road completed to Washaw Bay, and a road to Big Island well under way. The completion of these projects will open up large tracts of farmlands in the surrounding district and give an impetus to the tourist trade.

★

DR. THORLAKSON TO LECTURE IN MINNEAPOLIS

Three Winnipeg medical men will speak at sectional meetings of the American College of Surgeons in Minneapolis, March 15 and 16. They are Dr. Harry Coppinger, Dr. Donald M. Cox, and Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson, who will speak at a forum on Cancer Clinic problems. His topic will be "Intestinal obstruction of malignant origin".

ANDREWS, ANDREWS, THORVALDSON & EGGERTSON

Attorneys

Bank of Nova Scotia Bldg.
Portage at Garry St.
Phone 98 291

Keystone Fisheries Ltd. & Perfection Net & Twine Co.

G. F. Jonasson, Pres. & Man. Director
404 SOTT BLOCK, WINNIPEG, MAN.
Phone 95 227-8

Shoal Lake Sketches

(Continued from page 17)

translating Tennyson's "Enoch Arden" into Icelandic, improved on some passages in the original. Runólfsson reveals exquisite tenderness and poignancy of feeling in poems such as "A Night of Frost" and attains to real stature in "The Blue Banner at Christmas", which enshrines his vision, in 1918, of world peace. J. Magnús Bjarnason, well-known writer of novels, short stories, fables and poems, continued with his literary work while resident-teacher in the district, 1916 to 1922. Vigfús Guttormsson, Agust Magnusson, and Bergthor E. Johnson have written some competent verse. Many others have revealed poetic and versifying ability and it seems to have been almost exceptional if one of the settlers could not produce a quatrain or a stave. Also, many knew entire poems off by heart, although it is unlikely that any one equalled Paul Reykdal, of Lundar, in memorizing the contents of a whole volume of poetry.

In the field of music, Jónas Halldórson, self-taught, composed some melodious and pleasing tunes, including a rather stirring one to the words of "Rísbú unga Íslands merki" (Aloft, Young Iceland's Banner). Guttormur J. Guttormsson has significant compositions to his credit.

The women, also, found expression for their creative talent in composing poetry, and in embroidery and some have received prizes at exhibitions for their needlework.

A few members of the second generation have done something in the field of literature to demonstrate that Shoal Lake flowers still grow.

SOCIAL LIFE

Social gatherings in the homes marked the early years. A concert was held in the home of Isleifur Johnson, in Siberia, before the migration to the south

was completed. People from Shoal Lake attended. There were speeches on assigned topics and Daniel Backman delivered a eulogy, in verse form, on the ox. At these early socials there was dancing, sometimes to the music of an accordion. When the school-houses were built, concerts and dances were held there.

A picnic was held on the Jakob Crawford promontory, just south of Otto post office, in 1896. People attended from Lundar, ten miles to the west, and from Eyjolfson's, thirteen miles south. Kristjan Vigfusson gave a talk on his experiences, accompanying a group of settlers proceeding north, along Lake Manitoba. There were foot-races, but no prizes were given. Old and young took part, and Johanna Halldorson, mother of seven, came first in the ladies' event. In a game of "last-couple-out", one of the players stumbled and broke his wrist. He was attended to by a homeopathic doctor, Guðmundur Isberg, temporarily settled in the district.

The first play to be produced in the district was "Sigríður Eyjafjarðarsól". This was in 1896 or 1897, at the home of Sveinbjorn Sigurdson. Thereafter, plays were produced annually for over twenty years, often three-act plays.

The building of Markland Hall, 1905, was in response to the vigorously developing social life of the community. At the concerts there were plays, recitations, debates, band music, vocal and instrumental music, tombolas, raffles, cake-walks. There was dancing: the graceful old-time waltz; the stately minuet; the lively two-step; the spirited schottische, where some came down lightly and others came down hard; the cadenced three-step; the light-footed mazurka, and the rightly named rush-

polka. And there was the square dance, with the grand rush for partners, then order out of chaos, and Snæbjorn Hall-dorson or his brother Thorhallur, calling off for "Birdie-in-the-cage", "Pop-goes-the-weasel" or the waltz-quadrille. During the breakdown, the music sprites gambol and jig on the violin strings, the piano goes thump-thump, and the dancers, warm and perspiring, with joyful zest crash the last barrier. Finally, it may be four o'clock, or it may be six, comes the "Home, Sweet Home", swinging into "Good Night Ladies".

Those who provided good entertainment at these concerts are too numerous to mention. Prominent in dramatics over the years was the family of Jonas Halldorson: Sigridur (Hordal), Rannveig, Nybjorg, Snæbjorn, Kjartan, and Thorhallur; also Hjalmur Danielson, and his sister Jensina, (Mrs. Guttormur J. Guttormsson), Ljotun (Goodman) Sveinson, Gudny (Sigurdson) Halldorson, Carl Lindal and Thorsteinn Johnson. In vocal music, the trilling voice of Dora Goodman, and Carl Lindal's quartette, as in the "Old Oaken Bucket", will long remain in memory. Hermann Johnson and Thorsteinn Johnson were two members of a good four-piece orchestra that knew how to play "Alexander's Rag-Time Band".

There were concerts at other places than Markland Hall, but in Markland Hall was centered the social life of the community. People often attended from as far as Oak Point, twenty miles away. People from the neighboring English and Swedish settlements often attended. Burly Jack Popplewell is remembered proceeding in front of a row of ladies, young and elderly, rehearsing his Icelandic: "Eg elska þig. Viltu eiga mig" (I love you. Will you marry me?). Recollections of Markland Hall through the memory.

ATHLETICS

The young men of "Verðandi" did

not realize much of their ambitious physical culture program, but, about 1900, teachers such as Fred Olsen, who at the age of eighteen had given a brilliant performance in goal for the Victoria hockey team of Winnipeg, in their Stanley Cup triumph, joined in their games and taught them football as played on the college campus. Presently, a youthful generation in the five schools of the district was graduating from "three old cats" to baseball, soccer, and track and field events.

In 1907, a 2½ mile road race was held in Winnipeg, with entries from rural schools in the Province. The representatives from the Norðurstjarna school were the brothers Leo and Edric Hordal. Leo was fleet as a deer and a tireless runner, but Edric was more sturdily built. In the senior event, Leo outdistanced his field, but he also outdistanced the guide, and inadvertently ran around an extra block, which proved too great a handicap. Still, he came in with the winners. In the Junior event, Edric won the Russell Lang cup for the school and a set of Dickens for himself.

At the Icelandic celebration in Winnipeg, 1907, Thorsteinn Goodman, of Otto, was first in two bicycle races, and on many subsequent occasions he and his Blue-Flyer featured the competition.

Kristjan Backman, grandson of Kristjan Sigurðson, who spent a few of his very early years in the district, was individual champion at the Icelandic celebration, in 1907 and 1908. His stellar football at Wesley and the Medical Colleges is still spoken of admiringly by his team-mates. At the Canadian Track and Field Championship meet held in Winnipeg in 1909, Backman showed up very favorably in the hundred yards dash against the ultimate winner, Sebert of Toronto, a consistent ten second man.

At the Icelandic celebration of 1908, Einar Johnson, of Vestfold, was second in the hundred yards dash for boys.

This was the beginning of a brilliant record in the annals of organized sport among the people of Icelandic origin in Canada. He won the Individual Championship at the Icelandic celebration of 1910 and 1911, tied for first place in 1912, and gained permanent possession of the trophy in 1913. Subsequently, he won the championship three times. Such was his iron-man display that at one meet he won six events and placed second in the seventh.

Oskar Thorgilson was another Shoal Lake athlete noted for his great strength and performance. He was Individual Champion at the Icelandic celebration once, and also won the "glima" or Icelandic wrestling. Kari Johnson won the "glima" once.

Other Shoal Lake names appeared on the winners' list at the Icelandic celebrations: G. O. Thorsteinson, Thorhallur Halldorson, Skapti Johnson, Bessi Byron, Victor Vestdal, and Wilhelm Kristjanson.

All the athletes that have been mentioned, with the exception of Kari Johnson, were members of the "Grettir" Athletic Association, representative of Lundar and the surrounding district, an organization which owed much to the unflagging zeal and energy of its president, Paul Reykdal. They played an important part in enabling the club to win the Oddson shield at the Icelandic celebration for ten years in succession, 1914 to 1923.

At the University of Manitoba, after the First World War, Wilhelm Kristjanson held the record for the indoor mile and the half mile walk, and won his "M" at the Inter-Collegiate meet at Saskatoon, in 1923, when the four western universities competed. He also rowed for his college at Oxford, St. Catherines, in Torpids and the Summer Eights, 1925-26.

The dusty playgrounds of Shoal Lake, while not as historic as the playing fields of Eton, nevertheless deserve to be remembered.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

When the First World War broke out, it was not long before Shoal Lake boys volunteered. First were the four Ericksons, Vilhjalmur, Ingi, Bjarni and Johann; then the three chums from the Jon Bjarnason Academy, Sigurður J. Erickson, Gilbert Johnson and Wilhelm Kristjanson; Hjalmur Danielson; Sigfus Thorleifson; Guðmundur and Thorsteinn O. S. Thorsteinson; Edric Hordal; Helgi Olsen, Columbus Lindal, and others. Johann Erickson enlisted April 6, 1915; he was born April 10, 1898. Gilbert Johnson was seventeen when he donned uniform.

Their stories, pieced together, is the common tale of those days: keenness to do their part; the monotonous squad-drill of the first weeks or months; Camp Hughes, with its bare, blowing sands and thirty thousand men under canvas in 1916; the process of integration and discipline; shore leave in England or Scotland; trench warfare, with its long stretches of monotony alternating with fierce bursts of action, with its vermin and trench-fever; the learning of fundamental human values, and the enduring comradeships formed; the variety of personal contacts, all-Canadian, and all-British; growing Canadian esprit-de-corps; casualties; hospital and English hospitality; the Armistice, and the return home, for those destined to return home; satisfaction in having done a job.

Gilbert Johnson did not return; quiet, sensitive, studious Gilbert Johnson, who died of wounds received on the Vimy Ridge sector, in August 1917. His bent had been for the ministry. Fúsi Thorleifson, quiet, too, and gentlemanly, was grievously wounded on Vimy Ridge, April 28, 1917, and returned home only to die from the effect of his wounds. Sam Erickson, a good and genial comrade, had ambitions before the war for a legal career, and had known what it is to acquire learning

the hard way. He served an unbroken period of nearly two years at the front, and was killed in action near Cambrai, September 28, 1918, six weeks before the Armistice.

Those who served were tested, and they stood the test well. They fought shoulder to shoulder with Canadians of various racial origins, helped to write a splendid chapter in the history of their country, and acquired a new sense of the meaning of citizenship. They gained a wider and deeper conception of life.

THE PAST, THE PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE

October 31 and November 1, 1886, Freeman B. Anderson made a second journey of exploration to the Inter-Lake district, this time along the east side of Shoal Lake, proceeding as far north as township 19, near the tip of the lake. This time he was accompanied by Jon Julius. The weather was fine, and he describes an attractive scene, the lake, which the pioneers will remember as being a beautiful deep blue, although extensively fringed by marsh grass, was like a mirror, the light-hued meadows and the dark-hued woods still under the autumn sun. Sixty year later, the meadows and the woods are still there, but the lake has shrunk and the northern part has virtually disappeared, and where at one time the water was six feet deep the mower now makes its rounds. But where, in 1886, there was virgin territory, there are now dwellings and, in the fall the haystacks dot the old lake bottom and the open fields around, and herds of cattle and flocks of sheep graze on the light-hued grass.

The tide of settlement, which reached its peak in the years before World War One, has now greatly receded. Many of the early pioneers are in their graves. Of the first group, Kristjan Sigurðson died at the age of eighty-five: his wife, Margret, lived to be almost

ninety-nine. Some are living their autumn days, in Lundar, or elsewhere. The majority of the sons and daughters have scattered far and wide, from the Arctic Circle to California, from the Pacific to the Atlantic. Edric Hordal was for some time employed as guide in the Arctic regions. Holmfriður, wife of the composer, Björgvin Guðmundsson, and also Fjölfnir Lindal, live in Iceland. Several former Shoal Lake people are scattered along the Pacific coast, at Vancouver, Seattle, and in California. Many fill responsible positions, or are engaged in highly skilled trades. The number of those in the professions has already been indicated.

The second generation is bilingual, and has for the most part cherished the Icelandic heritage. Its members know the story of their parents' pioneer effort and achievement. But the dispersal of population has brought about a sweeping change. There has been racial intermarriage, mainly with persons of British stock. Many members of the third generation know little or no Icelandic. But of the pioneers of Shoal Lake, this may be said, in the words of Pericles, when speaking of the Athenian dead: that their story abides, "woven into the fabric of other men's lives".

DR. L. A. SIGURDSON

528 Medical Arts Bldg.

★

Office Ph. 94 762

Res. Ph. 72 409

J. J. SWANSON LTD.

* Rentals * Real Estate *
Insurance * Loans

308 AVENUE BLDG.

To The Subscribers of

The Icelandic Canadian

Please check the expiring date of your subscription as indicated on the envelope of every issue. That represents your receipt for remittances. — Remittances should be made by Money Orders in U.S.A., as Postal Notes are not cashed in Canada.

*Say it
with
Flowers
from
The Orchid*



Flowers Telegraphed Everywhere
VICTOR SCOTT
311 Donald St. — Phone 93 404-5-6

Rumford
LIMITED

LAUNDERERS DRY CLEANERS
FUR STORAGE
Telephone 21 374

WHEN YOU WANT
THE BEST IN
BAKING

CALL

**Baldwinson's
Sherbrook Home Bakery**

•

749 ELLICE AVE. PHONE 37 486

For the Best Values in Town

SEE THE FOLLOWING
FAMOUS NAME SHOES

For Men

STRIDER
LECKIE
SLATER

For Women

HEEL HUGGER
ORTHO-FASHION
at

Macdonald
SHOE STORE LTD.
492-4 Main Street

Subscribe to
THE
ICELANDIC CANADIAN

For
Number One Quality

**Milk
Cream
and
Butter**

PHONE 201 101

MODERN DAIRIES LTD.

"Always
Good"



For Delivery
Telephone - **87 647**
CITY DAIRY CO.

Be Satisfied

Deal at the

**HARMAN'S
DRUG STORES**

PORTAGE & SHERBROOK
SARGENT & TORONTO



Phone: 34 561
23 455

COURTESY
IS OUR MOTTO

**JACK ST. JOHNS
DRUG STORE**

SARGENT at LIPTON

Phone 33 110

THE FAMILY DRUGGIST

WINNIPEG'S FRIENDLY HOTEL
THE
MARLBOROUGH

In The Heart Of Everything
**THE BEST FOOD IN TOWN
AT REASONABLE PRICES**

— COFFEE SHOP —
Open All Day For Light Lunches
After the Show Snacks

— DINING ROOM —
Sunday Dinner Always
A Treat

WINDOW GLASS PLATE GLASS
WINDSHIELD GLASS
Store Front Construction
Glass Brick

MIRRORS A SPECIALTY

**The Consolidated Plate Glass
(Western) Limited**

373-5 BALMORAL ST. — WINNIPEG

ALWAYS ask your
Grocer for

**"BUTTER-NUT
BREAD"**

Rich as Butter — Sweet as a Nut



**CANADA BREAD
CO. LTD.**

PHONE 37 144

Phone 24 126 Sargent at Agnes

★

H. B. SCOTT BAKERY

Our Products are Unequalled

★

**WEDDING & BIRTHDAY
CAKE SPECIALISTS**

★

CITY WIDE DELIVERY

UPON YOUR

"TODAY"

DEPENDS YOUR

"TOMORROW"



START A SAVINGS ACCOUNT

AT

The Bank of Toronto

**Sagas of heroic pioneers
in Manitoba**

. . . the Icelanders

With little more than their sheer determination with which to work, the first Icelandic settlers in Manitoba succeeded in establishing their settlement at Gimli in the year 1875.

They were beset with more than their fair share of pioneering hardships, yet within a year their native love for learning and literature was responsible for putting into operation both a school and a newspaper.

Time has not slowed their work nor dimmed their vision. Today, the Dominion points with pride to the cultural contributions of its Icelanders in Canada.

**ICELAND
IN
MANITOBA**

SHEA'S Winnipeg Brewery Ltd.

For
Tender Pastry

Try
J E W E L

a
Blended Shortening
That Blends
Better

WINNIPEG'S OWN!

City Hydro is YOUR utility—
use is for dependable, low-cost
electric service anywhere in
Winnipeg . . . Just call

City Hydro

Telephone 848 124

You can be sure
of the lowest prices
every day of the week
at **SAFEWAY!**

We are never knowingly undersold!

CANADA SAFEWAY LIMITED

SAFEWAY



PARK-HANNESSON

WINDATT

Coal Co., Limited

Est. 1898

**Coal
Coke
Wood**

506 PARIS BUILDING

97 404

LICENSE No. 2

John Olafson, Representative
37 340

We Give You Credit . .

To enable you to buy wanted, need merchandise while it is fresh and fashionable . . . the **BAY** offers many convenient ways of buying on credit terms. For full details, consult our Credit Counsellors on the . . . **FIFTH FLOOR.**

BE WISE . . .

QUINTONIZE

call

Quinton's

PHONE
42361

•CLEANERS•DYERS•FURRIERS•

Everybody does!

A. S. Bardal

Funeral Service



PHONES: 27324—26 444

Bardal Block

843 Sherbrook St. Winnipeg

Established 1897

S. Thorvaldson, M.B.E., President
L. A. Sigurdson, M.D., Sec.-Treas.

SIGURDSSON THORVALDSON CO. LTD.

GENERAL MERCHANTS

Riverton—Hnausa—Arborg
Lumber Yards at Riverton & Arborg

Phones: 1 55/33 1

Manitoba

Biggar Bros. Ltd.

Fuel — Cartage



LONG DISTANCE HAULING



425 Gertrude Ave. Phone 42 844

Crescent Creamery Company Limited



Dealers in "Quality Guarded
Dairy Products for over
43 years

**MILK — CREAM — BUTTER
ICE CREAM**

PHONE 37 101

THE VIKING PRESS

Limited

PRINTERS & PUBLISHERS

853 Sargent Ave.

Phone 24 185

Compliments of

ROSE & WONDERLAND

WEST ENDS LEADING THEATRES

Doors Open Daily — 6.30 p.m.

Sat. and Holidays — 1 p.m.

Furs . . . Fashions . . . Men's Wear

HOLT RENFREW

PORTAGE AT CARLTON

York

This name, so familiar to readers of Canadian history, is also your identification for high-quality tinned meats—delicious York Stews—York Sandwich Spreads and many others. — At your food store, look for the Red Tin with the YORK label — it means consistent high quality.

**Canada
Packers
Limited**

OUR PROGRAM

\$7,000,000 to bring in more electricity for Greater Winnipeg's homes and industries.

\$3,000,000 for more buses and improvements in our Street Railway System.

A grand total of \$10,000,000 of Capital Funds which we plan to spend on increased service for all the citizens.

WINNIPEG ELECTRIC COMPANY

Everything in LUMBER for the Home

EMPIRE SASH & DOOR Co. LTD.

HENRY & ARGYLE

PHONE 95 551

New Horizons of Public Service

The Great-West Life's growing responsibility for security and protection was widely extended in 1947. There are now more than 360,000 policyholders in Canada and the United States.

New protection of \$195 millions was issued to more than 58,000 policyholders through the Company's representatives during the year.

Payments to policyholders and beneficiaries amounted to \$19 millions. A further sum of \$27 millions was added to the amount—now over \$300 millions—held to meet future obligations to them.

The year's results are further evidence that the entire Great-West Life organization is united in the common endeavor of serving the best interests of its policyholders.

NOTEWORTHY FIGURES

	1947	1946
Business in Force.....	\$1,207,000,000	\$1,057,000,000
New Business.....	195,000,000	173,000,000
Assets.....	304,000,000	275,000,000

A booklet outlining the Company's operations in 1947 will be mailed to policyholders shortly.

The
GREAT-WEST LIFE
ASSURANCE COMPANY

HEAD OFFICE

WINNIPEG, CANADA

Your Future is our business, *Today*